Animal Tales

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Animal Tales

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Animal Tales

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

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ZOO KNEW?

Animal news and fun facts!

Scientists have learned why octopuses are so smart!

The octopus is one of the most intelligent creatures on Earth, and experts just cracked a mystery that reveals why! It turns out, octopuses may have had a similar evolution to humans, which caused both of our brains to create networks that allow for big thinking. This means the octopus has a more complex brain than most creatures in the ocean. It allows them to do things like solve problems with tools and even create mischief!

Rats can bop their heads to the beat of a song!

When you hear a great song, you just can't help but tap your feet or bop your head along to the rhythm of the tune. And you're not alone — rats bop their heads to music, too! Beat synchronization is a special ability that allows us to hear a beat and move our bodies along with it. After studying rats, scientists learned that they have that same ability. They played lots of different songs for the rats to listen to in the study, including "Born This Way" by Lady Gaga!

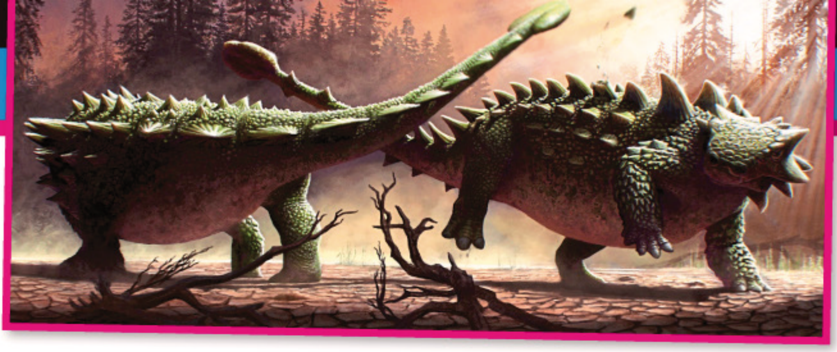
These frogs turn invisible when they sleep!

This frog is a bit tricky to spot, right? The glass frog has transparent skin all day long, but when it's time to sleep, its body does something special to make it more invisible. It's able to hide its red blood, so instead of having a red tint, it looks completely clear! This talent helps the frog stay camouflaged while it's asleep and more vulnerable to predators.

ANDREA IZZOTTI/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROB JANSEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; KIRILL KURASHOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

A rare snowy owl was found in California!

Hedwig, is that you? A snowy owl was spotted in southern California — far from its usual home, the Arctic! Bird experts say it's very rare to spot one of these birds in the wild. They think the owl either got thrown off course by a storm or he rode into the area on a ship that was delivering goods to a nearby town.



These dinos had clubs attached to their tails!

Talk about a secret weapon! The Zuul crurivastator was a plant-eating dinosaur with an armor-like covering on its body. Thanks to new fossil discoveries, scientists believe they had clubs attached to their tails that may have been around the size of a microwave! Those tails were used like a hammer, to swing around and harm any predators.

Taylor Swift's cat is one of the richest in the world!

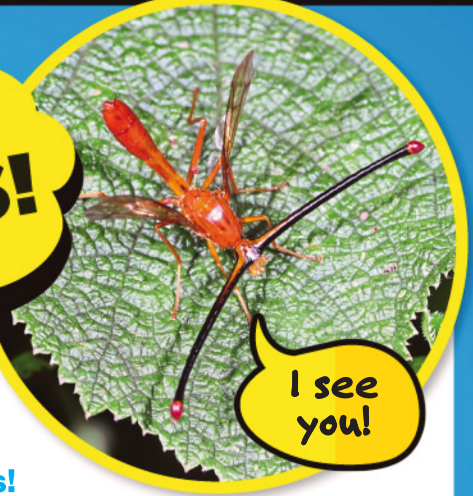
Hey Olivia Benson, can you buy us something off our wish list? Taylor Swift's cat Olivia is said to be worth $97 million! You may be wondering how a cat makes money, but Olivia is no ordinary cat. The Scottish fold has worked in commercials, has been in some of Taylor's music videos and has lots of fans on Instagram. Guess she's a hard worker, just like her human!

Dry pet food is better for the environment than wet food!

After studying nearly 1,000 different pet foods, experts have learned that dry dog and cat food is better for our environment than wet food. What makes the wet food worse for our planet? Well, for one, making wet food uses up more land and water. The other important thing is that it lets out more greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas is a gas in Earth's atmosphere that traps the heat of the sun. Too much greenhouse gas makes Earth warmer than it should be, which isn't a good thing!

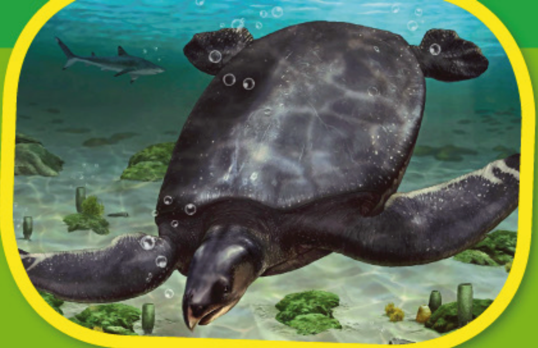
VERTEX MEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; HENRY SHARPE; INSTAGRAM/SWIFT; NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK; YONG WANG; ICRA ART; LITTLE BUCKETS FARM SANCTUARY (2)

Eww, GROSS!



These flies have eyes that pop out of their heads!

Male fruit flies called Pelmatops go through a wild transformation when they turn into adults. The insects start with normal eyes, then, 50 minutes later, their eyes grow outward on two stick-like structures, and they stay like that forever! Their new look may help scare off predators and help the flies spot nearby danger.



Turtles were once 12 feet long!

Picture a turtle that's more than double the size of your parents! The ancient extinct turtle called Leviathanochelys aenigmatica was a sea turtle that grew to be over 12 feet long. Thanks to fossils discovered by paleontologists in Spain, we know that the turtle swam in waters in Europe and is one of the largest turtles species to ever be uncovered!

Gotta GET IT!

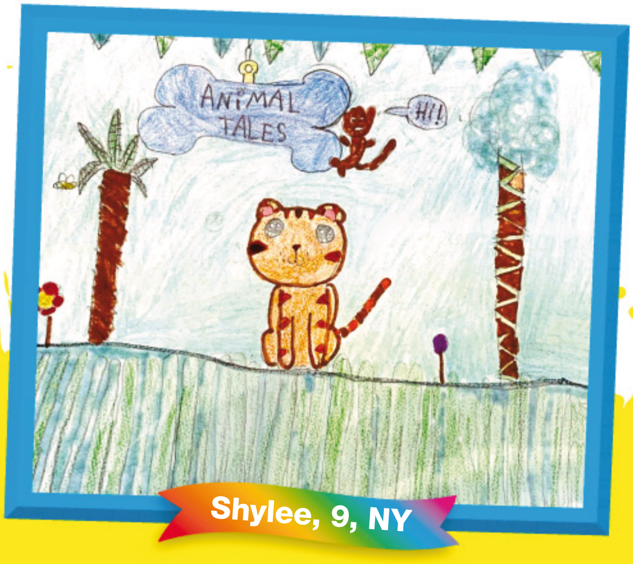
Play with your own pet pony!

Cinnamon isn't any old pony toy! She reacts to being pet and fed, just like a real horse. She also comes with loads of accessories you can use to make her look exactly as you'd like.

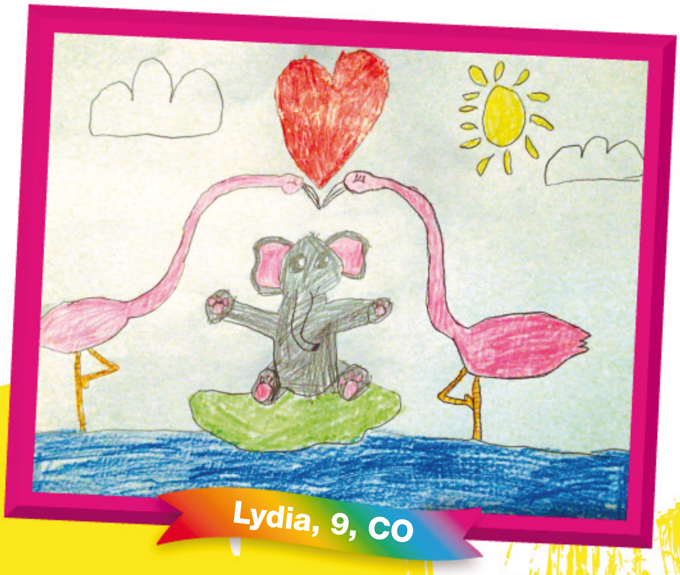
furReal Cinnamon My Stylin' Pony Interactive Pet Toy, $85, target.com

This cow and dog are besties!

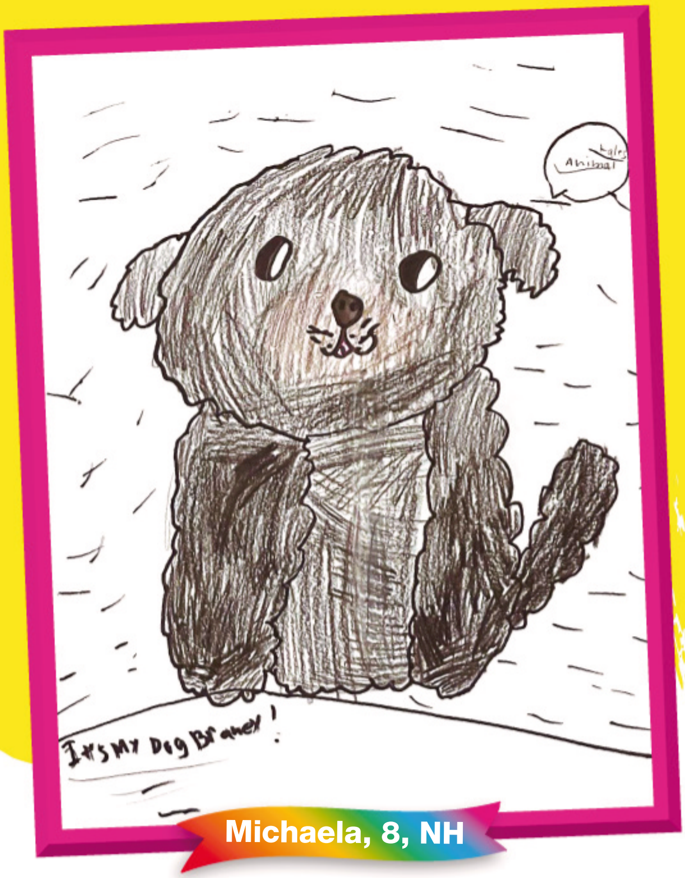
They're an unlikely duo, but Colton the dog and Bucket the cow are the best of friends! Raised together at Little Buckets Farm Sanctuary in Brodnax, Virginia, the pair met when Bucket was a newborn, and immediately started to cuddle together. Once Bucket got too big to share a bed with his doggy BFF, they kept up their friendship by hanging out, playing, grooming and nuzzling together. To learn more about Little Buckets Farm Sanctuary and Bucket and Colton, you can visit littlebucketsfarmsanctuary.org with a parent's permission!


ANIMAL TALES
HI!

Shylee, 9, NY



Lydia, 9, CO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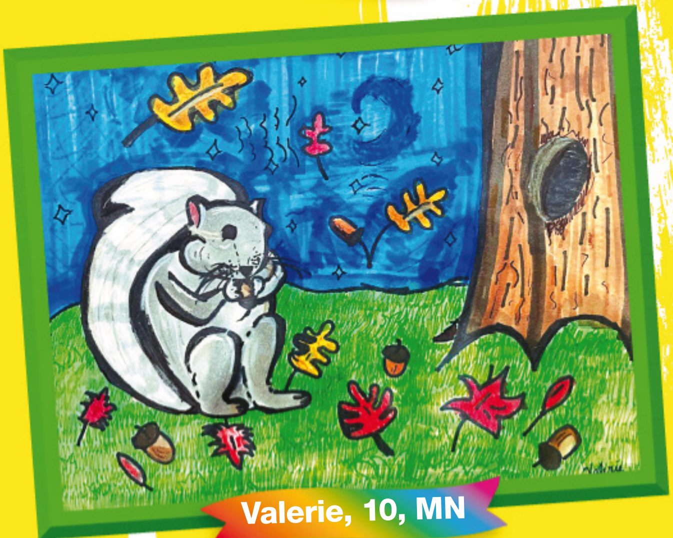
Its my Dog Braney!

Michaela, 8, NH



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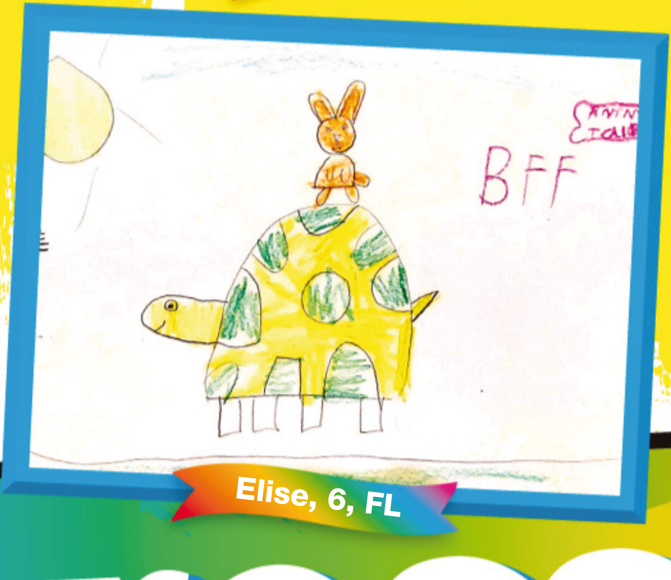
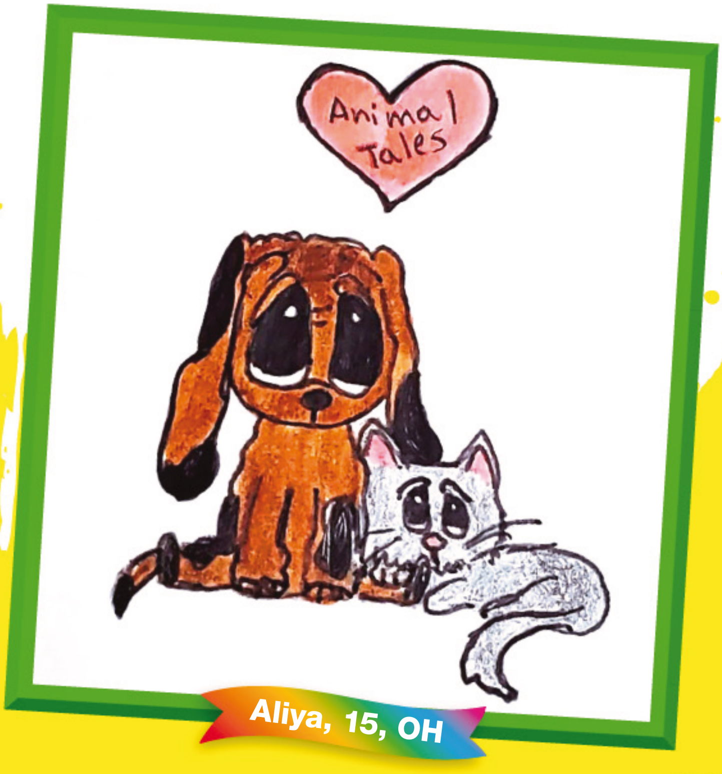

ANIM
TALE
BFF

Elise, 6, FL

Express

We loved looking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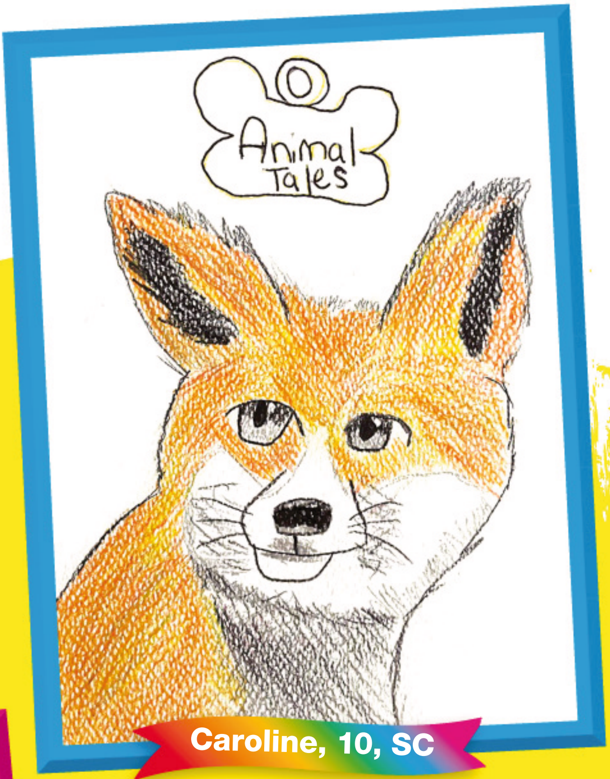
Aliya, 15, OH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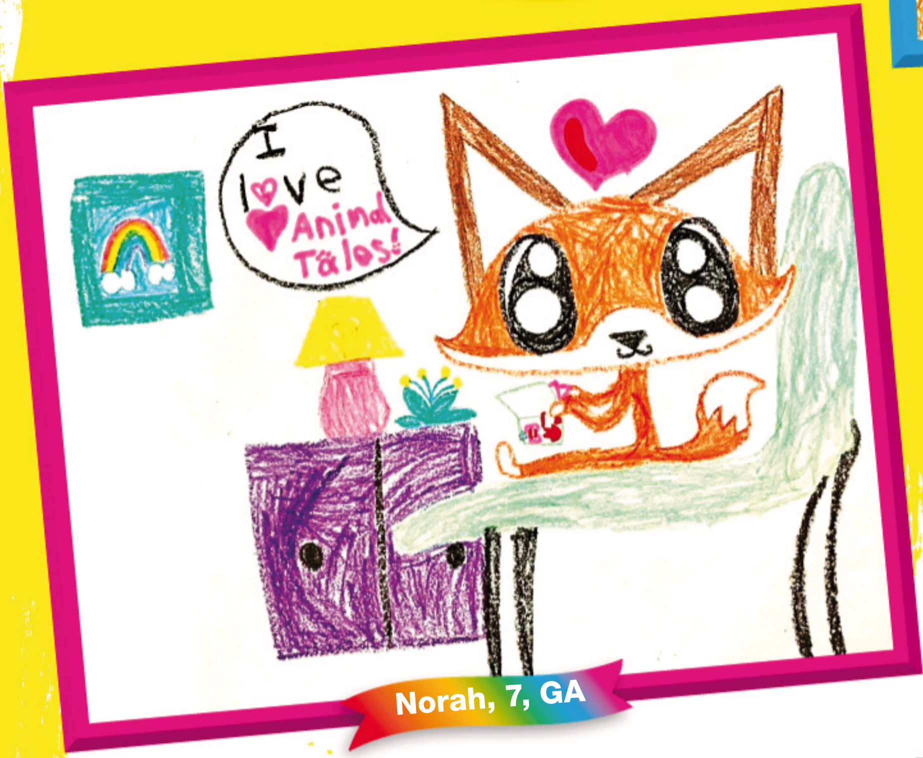
Caroline, 10, SC


I love Animal Tales!

Norah, 7, GA

SEND US YOUR ARTWORK!

Draw a picture of an animal, and it could wind up in our next issue! Send your drawing and first name, age and state to mail@animaltalesmag.com with "Express Yourself" in the subject line.

Yourself

at all of your adorable animal drawings!

Animal BABIES

We can't get enough of these adorable little ones!

Polar bear cubs learn from their moms. In fact, they copy everything their mamas do. They pay such close attention to their moms so they'll know how to survive in their habitat when they're older.

This is a roe deer fawn, and you won't find one in any state in America! They mostly live in Europe. Roe deer fawns are curious animals who search tons of different places to find food when they're hungry.

Baby hedgehogs are called hoglets! You may be surprised to learn that they're born with their spines (a.k.a. quills). As they get older, they shed their small baby spines and grow new, larger ones.

Alligator moms are very protective of their hatchlings. To keep them safe while swimming, she'll carry them around on her head! The hatchlings will make loud noises to get her attention if they need help.

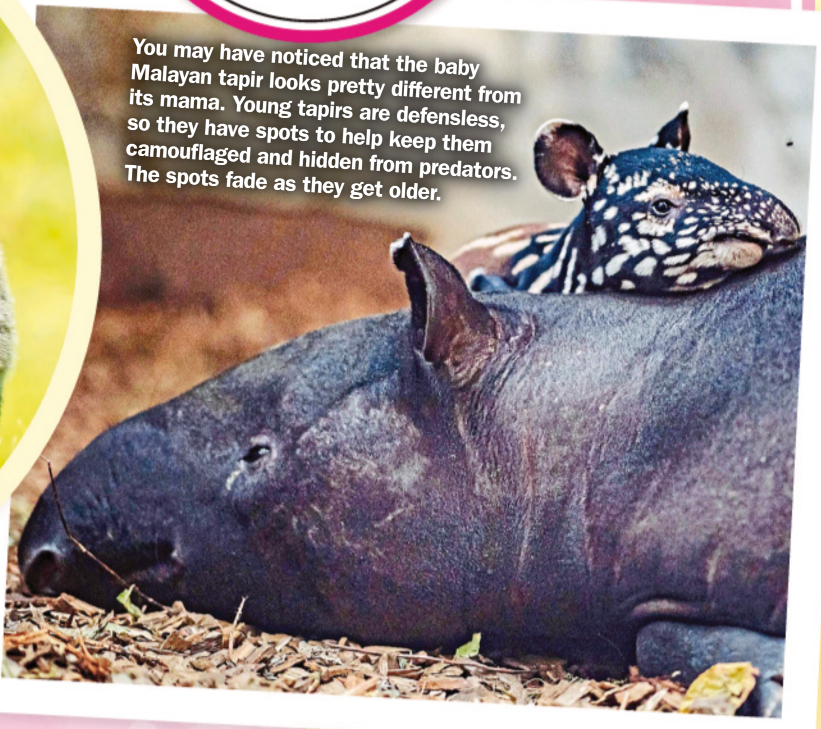
Rhino calves aren't born with their horns. It'll be a few months before this little guy begins to sprout his horn, but it'll take even longer — a few years — before its horn is as long as its mother's!

Humpback whale calves are huge! When they're born, they can be up to 15 feet long — that's around the average length of a car. Though they're big, they still need their mom's guidance and will stay with them for around a year before they begin to travel solo.

SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your adorable baby animal, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com with "Animal Babies" in the subject line.

These two pups sure look happy, right? That's because Finnish Lapphunds are some of the friendliest dogs around! They breed was once known for herding reindeer, which means that their instincts are to herd creatures around them — even if those creatures happen to be humans!



You may have noticed that the baby Malayan tapir looks pretty different from its mama. Young tapirs are defensless, so they have spots to help keep them camouflaged and hidden from predators. The spots fade as they get older.

ERIC GEVAERT/SHUTTERSTOCK; LUBOS CHLUBNY/SHUTTERSTOCK; KNOWSLEY SAFARI/COVER IMAGES/INSTARIMAGES.COM; IMAGINE EARTH PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SEBASTIAN DUDA/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARC PLETCHER/SHUTTERSTOCK; VALSN/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHESTER ZOO/COVER IMAGES/INSTARIMAGES.COM

An Orca's TALE!

Use the word bank to help you label the body parts of the killer whale!

BODY PARTS:

BLOWHOLE: Located at the top of the orca's head, this helps him breathe in oxygen

DORSAL FIN: Pointy feature that keeps the orca steady while making sudden turns

EYE: Allows the orca to see above sea level or underwater

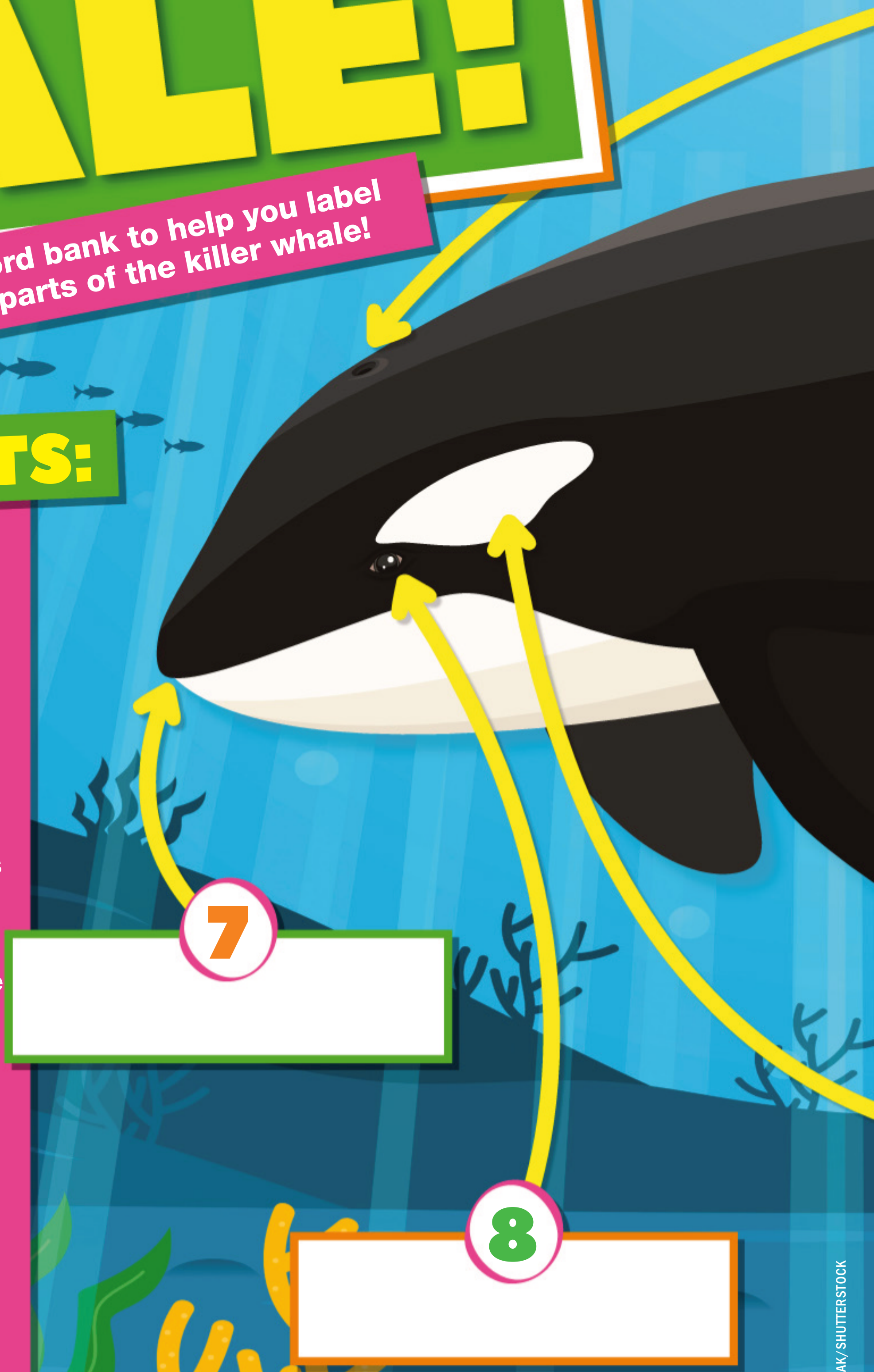
EYESPOT: Scientists think this white area is used to protect the eye from prey

FLUKE: Black underside of the orca's tail that is used to propel him forward

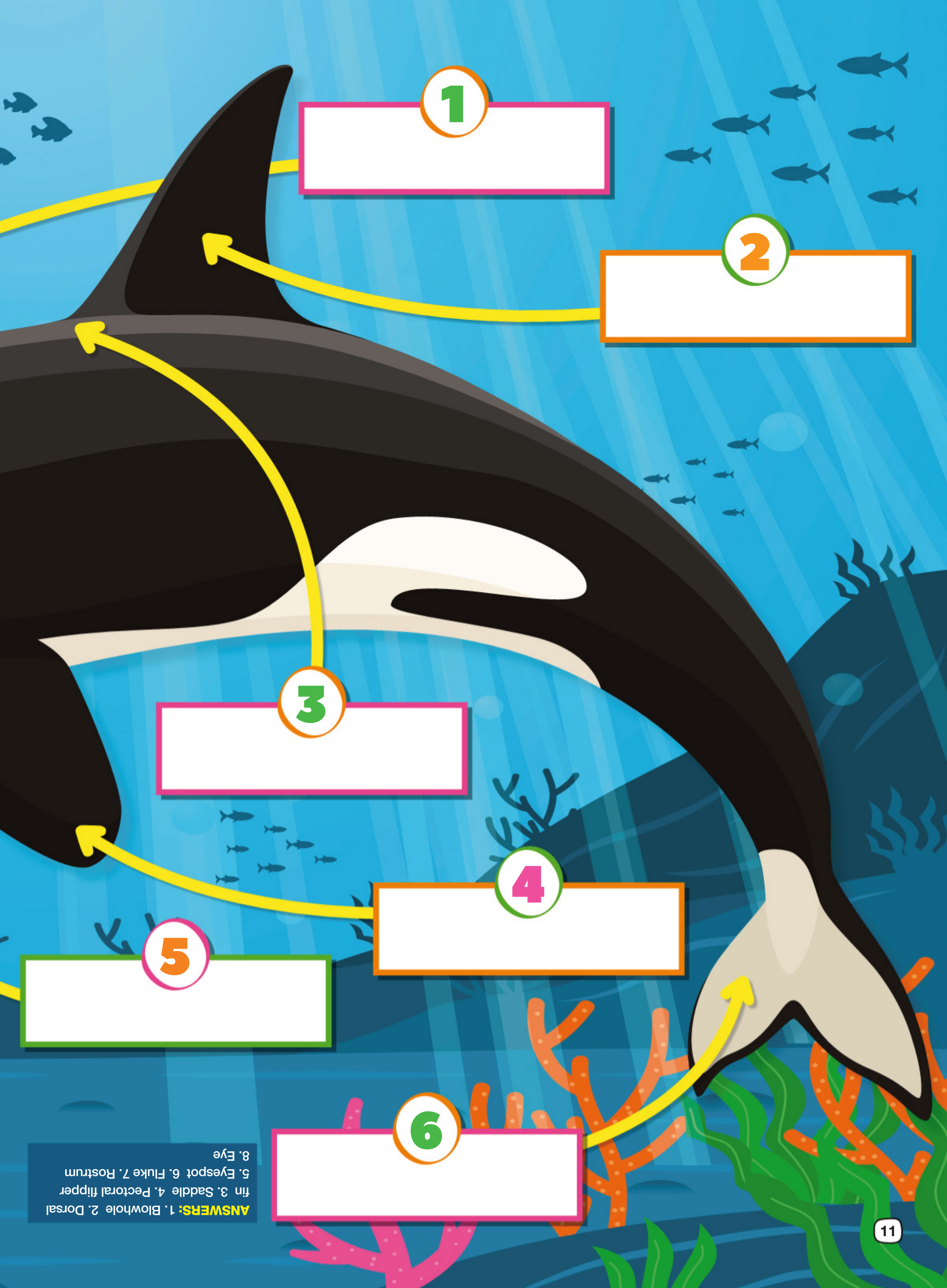
PECTORAL FLIPPER: This part of the orca helps him with side-to-side movements

ROSTRUM: Crescent-shaped "snout" or "beak" that holds all of the orca's teeth

SADDLE: This gray-ish part is sort of like a cape and scientists use it to identify orcas



HANDIES PEAK/SHUTTERSTOCK



ANSWERS: 1. Blowhole 2. Dorsal fin 3. Saddle 4. Pectoral flipper 5. Eyespot 6. Fluke 7. Rostrum 8. Eye

Pig out on this

SMOOTHIE BOWL!

It's almost too cute to eat!

Ingredients:

SMOOTHIE BOWL:

- 1½ cups plain or vanilla Greek yogurt
- 2½ cups frozen strawberries, raspberries or both
- 1½ tablespoons honey

TOPPINGS:

- 4 fresh strawberries
- ½ cup chocolate chips, melted
- ½ cup plain or vanilla Greek yogurt

CAREFUL: This recipe should be made with an adult.

Directions:

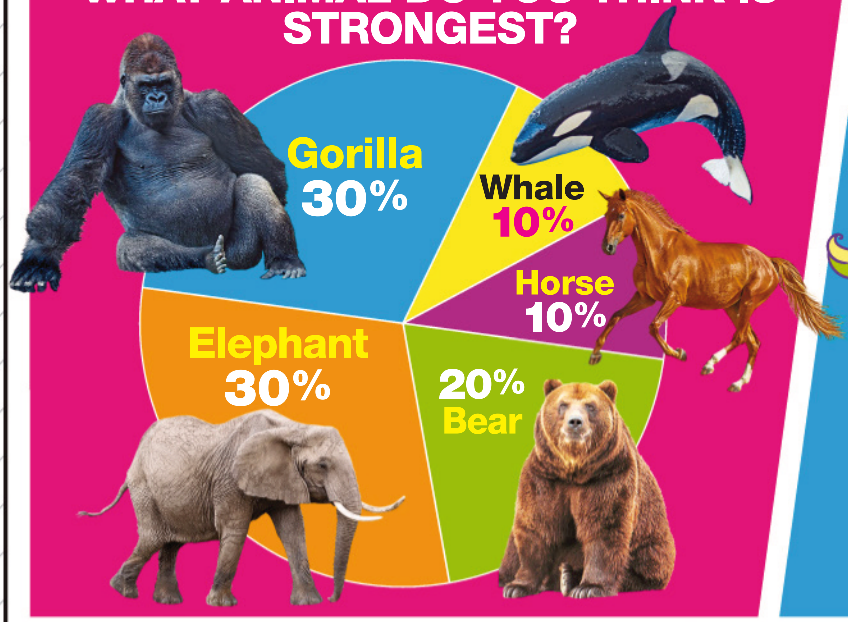
1. Start by cutting the fresh strawberries into the pig's ears and noses. You're going to make four smoothie bowls, so cut eight ears and four noses.
2. Pour the Greek yogurt, frozen berries and honey into a blender, then blend. Divide the mixture into four different bowls.
3. Arrange the ears and noses on top of the smoothies.
4. Add the melted chocolate to a sandwich bag and snip the tip off one corner. Use the chocolate to make the eyes, the nostrils and the mouth.
5. Add the ½ cup Greek yogurt to another sandwich bag and cut off one corner. Give the pig freckles and a curly hair. Enjoy!

ELENA SHASHKINA/SHUTTERSTOCK

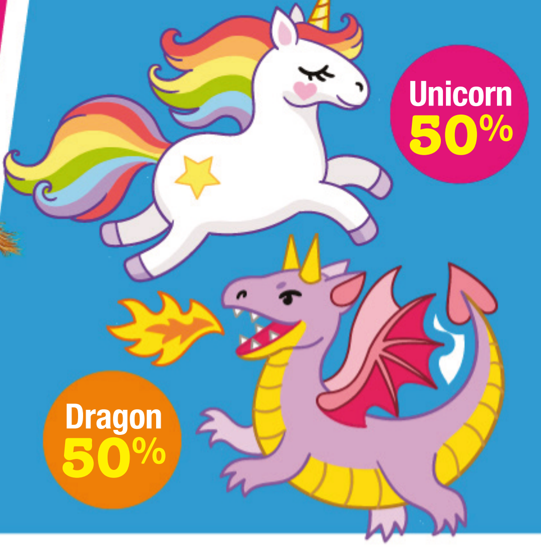
You SAID IT!

Check out the results of our latest poll!

WHAT ANIMAL DO YOU THINK IS STRONGEST?



WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE A PET UNICORN OR A PET DRAGON?


Unicorn 50%
Dragon 50%

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF BEAR?

Polar bear 60%
Black bear 30%
Panda 10%

WHAT ANIMAL DO YOU SEE THE MOST IN YOUR BACKYARD?

Squirrel 50%
Bird 30%
Rabbit 20%

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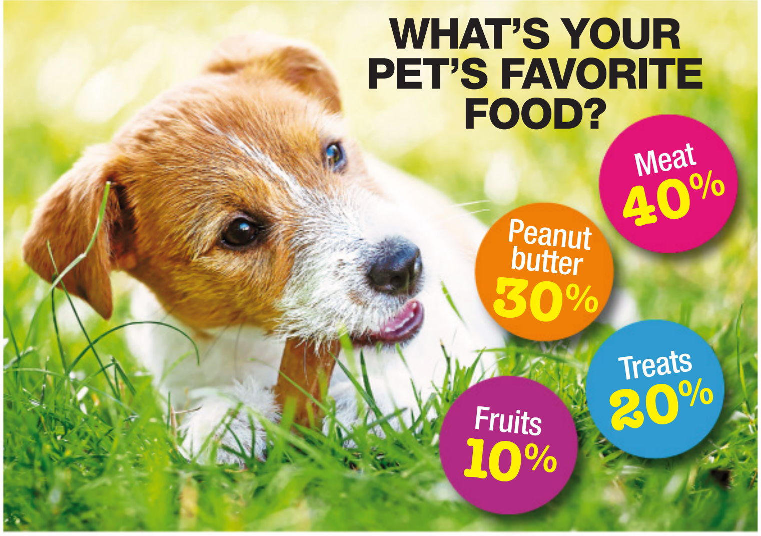
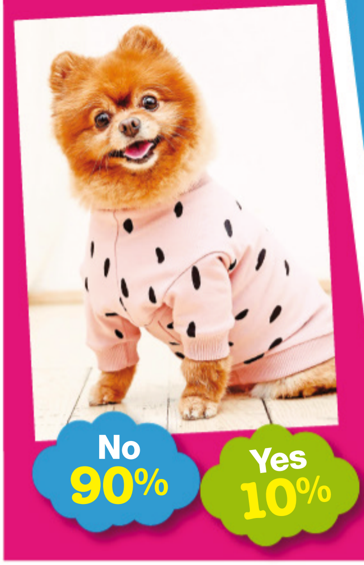
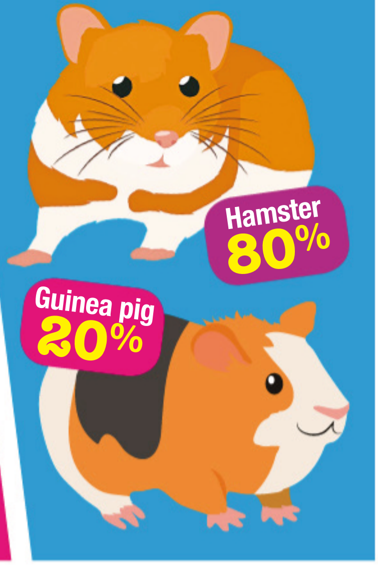
WHAT'S YOUR PET'S FAVORITE FOOD?



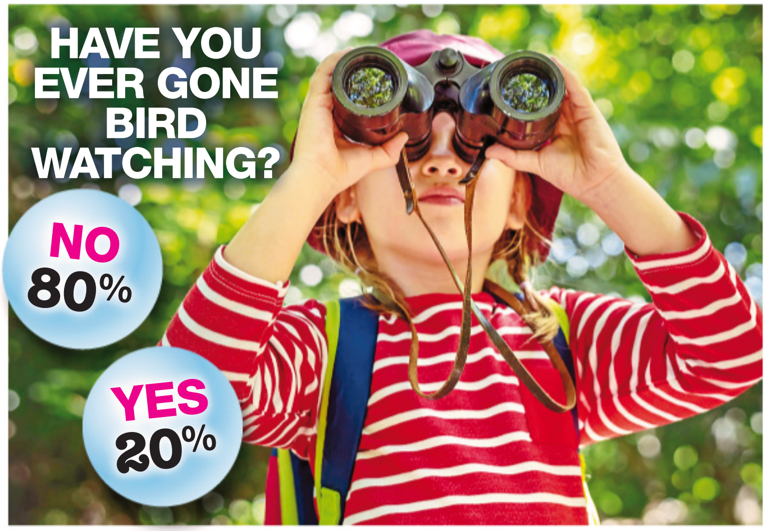
DOES YOUR PET LIKE TO WEAR PET CLOTHES?



WHICH POCKET PET DO YOU PREFER: HAMSTER OR GUINEA PIG?



HAVE YOU EVER GONE BIRD WATCHING?



REDDOGS/SHUTTERSTOCK; OLGA OVCHARENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK; CARLOSCVE/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROBUART/SHUTTERSTOCK; RAWPIXEL.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

If you had to do a school project about one animal, which one would you pick?

Does your best friend have a pet?

Which animal do you think is the stinkiest?

Would you rather spend the night in a giant bird nest or a snowy polar bear cave?

Which animal would be your *Harry Potter* Patronus?

Which animal would you want as a partner in a relay race?

Would you rather work at a zoo or an animal shelter?

Have you ever seen baby birds in a nest?

Are you a boy or a girl? Age:

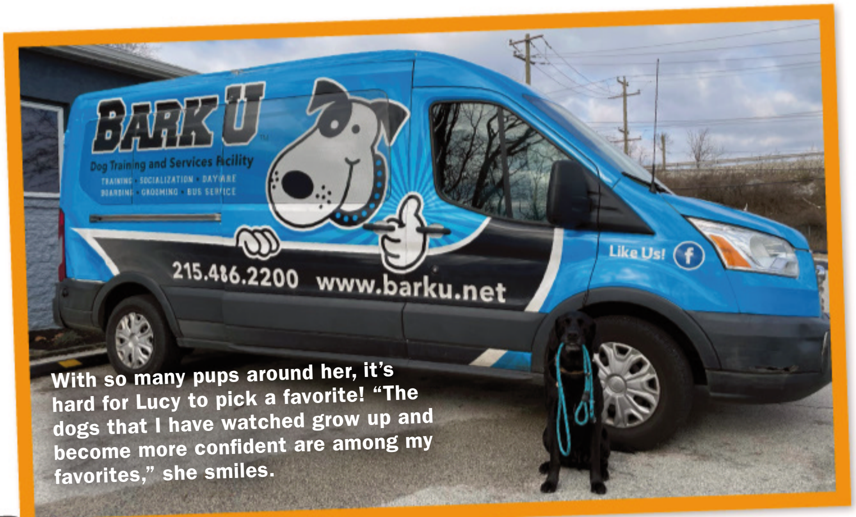
SEND IN YOUR ANSWERS:

Fill in your answers above and email them to mail@animaltalesmag.com. Make sure to put "You Said It" in the subject line.

What it's like to DRIVE A SCHOOL BUS for dogs!

Beep, beep – the bus is here to take some pups to class!

When it's time for you to go to school, how do you get there? Maybe your parents drive you or perhaps you take a bus. Well, when dogs are ready for training, daycare or grooming, they need a way to get there, too! Some lucky pups that go to Bark U, a dog lodging, daycare, grooming and training service in King of Prussia, PA, get to ride the Bark U Bus! Lucy Cyr is the bus driver supervisor at Bark U, and her job is to pick up the dogs in the morning and take them back home at the end of the day. "I make sure that all dogs get picked up on time and have a happy and safe trip in the bus," she tells *Animal Tales*. Lucy grew up with lots of pets and started volunteering at animal shelters when she was younger. Now, she has an awesome job where she gets to care for dogs every day.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With so many pups around her, it's hard for Lucy to pick a favorite! "The dogs that I have watched grow up and become more confident are among my favorites," she smiles.

LIFE ON THE JOB

Lucy's job starts early in the morning by checking her computer for the list of dogs she has to pick up and what activities they'll be doing when they get to Bark U. Next, she gets in the bus and drives to each of the dog's homes. Getting them to trust her enough to get on the bus is a big part of her job! "A few ways that I do this are using their name in a soft, calm tone, telling them everything will be okay, giving them soft head and body scratches and being patient," she shares. "Dogs are great at figuring out how we are feeling, so if we are relaxed, dogs in our care will feel more relaxed. This works with your dog at home, too!"

With all of the dogs loaded up, it's time to drive back to Bark U. "I feel like a celebrity sometimes because people love to wave to the bus and smile at us as we drive through the neighborhood,"

www.ba
arku.net

Lucy has a special trick if her passengers start barking! "I sing to them, which calms everyone down," she says.

Lucy says. When they make it to their final destination, the dogs are safely put in their correct areas, but Lucy's job isn't over yet! "I make sure they are all playing nicely with each other and the dogs have everything they need, such as fresh water, a clean yard to play in and lots of head scratches," she explains. When the day is done and it's time to head home, Lucy helps to get each dog back on the bus, double-checking to make sure they're all in attendance. Then, she drives them back to their humans. "They usually sleep because they are so tired from playing with friends all day!" she says.

A SPECIAL BUS

Dog school buses don't look like the kind of bus you may have taken a ride in! "Our dog buses are made just for dogs and set up with different size crates for the dogs to ride in on the way to school, instead of seatbelts and seats," Lucy shares. "This keeps them safe and gives them their own space for the ride. Also, there is a lot more hair on the floor!"

HOW YOU CAN GET THE JOB

If driving a dog school bus sounds fun, Lucy has some pointers so that you can be ready when you're older! "If you love dogs, I think this could be a great job for you," she says. "I would recommend helping your family or friends' dogs with activities such as walking, training and feeding them." She says you can practice commands like sit, stay and down. Most of all, learn as much as you can about all types of dogs! "Becoming comfortable and relaxed around different dog breeds, reading books about various dog breeds, recognizing their physical appearance and common personality traits among various groups of dogs is a great start," she suggests.

Quiz

WHO'S A PART OF MY FAMILY?

Use our clues to guess which animals are related!

1. GIRAFFIDAE FAMILY

GIRAFFE

YOUR GUESS:

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: People think I'm related to a zebra, but I'm not!

2. CNIDARIA FAMILY

JELLYFISH

YOUR GUESS:

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: A lot of people mistake me for a plant!

3. DELPHINIDAE FAMILY

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

YOUR GUESS:

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: I have two names, and one makes me sound dangerous!

4. EQUIDAE FAMILY

HORSE

YOUR GUESS:

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: My name means nose horn!

RELATIVES:

RHINOCEROS

BEE

OKAPI

ORCA

ALPACA

NICOLA_K_PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK; BARELLI PAOLO/SHUTTERSTOCK; TORY KALLMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; HELGA MADAJOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; POOJA PRASANTH/SHUTTERSTOCK; AMI PARIKH/SHUTTERSTOCK; ACHKIN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEXANDRA LANDE/SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ PROSICKY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SAM CARRERA/SHUTTERSTOCK; JONATHAN PLEDGER/SHUTTERSTOCK; DANIEL PRUDEK/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARCLSCHAUER/SHUTTERSTOCK; SLOWMOTIONGLI/SHUTTERSTOCK; WASIM MUKLASHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; JOHN CRUX/SHUTTERSTOCK; PICARD GWEG/SHUTTERSTOCK; HUNG CHUNG CHIH/SHUTTERSTOCK; VIDEOTRINKETS/SHUTTERSTOCK; THIERRY EIDENWEIL/SHUTTERSTOCK

5. ELEPHANTIDAE FAMILY

ELEPHANT

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: People often call me the sea cow!

6. HOMINIDAE FAMILY

HUMAN

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: I get around on two legs, too!

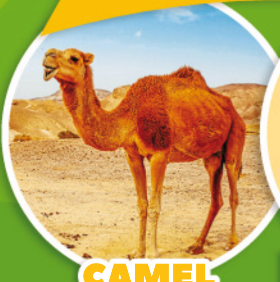
7. FORMICIDAE FAMILY

ANT

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: I'd never crawl like an ant!

8. CAMELIDAE FAMILY



CAMEL

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: Humans usually say I'm fluffy!

9. URSIDAE FAMILY

POLAR BEAR

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: You can only find me in China!

10. CANIDAE FAMILY

COYOTE

YOUR GUESS: ____________

MY FAMILY MEMBER SAYS: I blend right in to my chilly habitat!

KANGAROO

ARCTIC FOX

GIANT PANDA

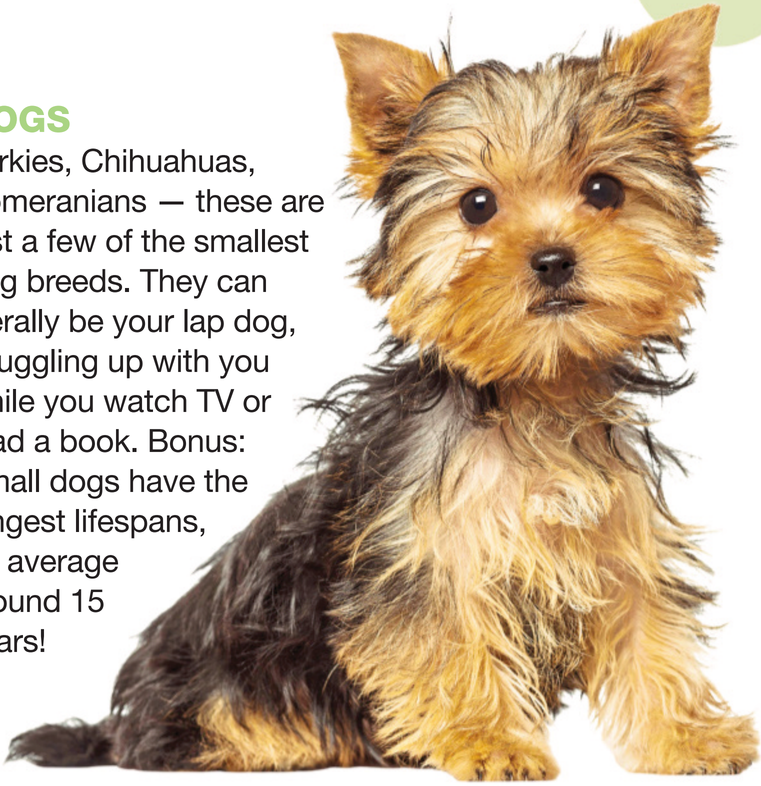
CORAL

MANATEE

1. Okapi; 2. Coral; 3. Orca; 4. Rhinoceros; 5. Manatee; 6. Kangaroo; 7. Bee; 8. Alpaca; 9. Giant panda; 10. Arctic fox

Tiny Pets ARE THE BEST!

You know what they say — good things come in small packages!



DOGS

Yorkies, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians — these are just a few of the smallest dog breeds. They can literally be your lap dog, snuggling up with you while you watch TV or read a book. Bonus: Small dogs have the longest lifespans, on average around 15 years!

RABBITS

With their floppy ears and adorable tails, who wouldn't love a rabbit as a pet? They even do their own version of a happy dance called a binky, where they jump up and twist around. Practically, they're also very clean animals who are easy to train.

CATS

The most popular small cat breed is the Munchkin! They're not as big as your average cat because of a genetic mutation that makes their legs shorter. So they can't jump high like other breeds, but they're still very playful and love running around.

GERBILS

These social butterflies need at least one other gerbil friend to be happy. Their cage will need to have plenty of materials for them to dig and tunnel through. In the wild, gerbils create large networks of underground tunnels, so you want to mimic that for a pet.

CHINCHILLAS

Want to guess how high a chinchilla can jump? Up to 6 feet — that's taller than you! They'll need a tall cage so they can leap all they like. You should also know these rodents have an independent streak. They love their owners, but they don't love being picked up and cuddled.

GECKOS

If you get a pet leopard gecko, it will communicate with its tail. In fact, these reptiles are often compared to rattlesnakes because they rattle their tails. If you see your gecko whip its tail back and forth, it's most likely excited to eat!

TURTLES

Don't tell them we said so, but box turtles are high-maintenance pets! They must have a terrarium that holds at least 40 gallons of water, and you have to place them close to a heat source. They need a spot where they can "bask in the sun," so it needs to be 85 to 90 degrees.

ARLEE.P/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); MDAVIDOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK;
OPAYAZA12/SHUTTERSTOCK; LUNIAKA MARIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; DWI YULIANTO/SHUTTERSTOCK

AXOLOTLS

You're going to want a tank with a secure lid for this aquatic salamander — because they like to jump. Unfortunately, they have thin skin and are easily injured. However, one of the coolest things about axolotls is that they can regrow their limbs, tails and other body parts.

FERRETS

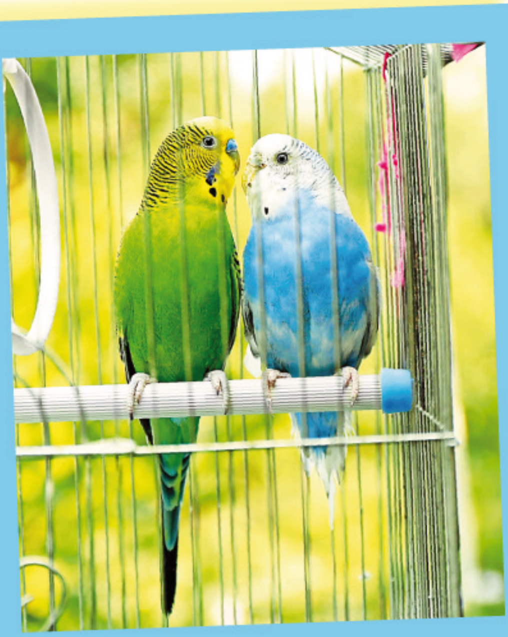
The name ferret comes from a Latin word that means little thief. So if you're thinking ferrets are known for stealing small objects and hiding them away, you'd be correct. They're very curious and flexible animals, so they'll get up to no good if you don't keep an eye on them!

BETTA FISH

Bettas are very popular fish, and we can see why with their flowing fins and cool colors! They've also been called underwater dogs because they seem to recognize their owners and they're able to learn tricks, much like canines.

GUINEA PIGS

Guinea pigs may be small, but they need room to move around. They're very active, so vets recommend a getting them tunnels because they'll enjoy exploring and hiding in them. Guineas are also very talkative — they make 11 different noises, including their famous wheek!



PARAKEETS

The most popular pet parakeets are a species called budgies, and the coolest thing about them is that they can talk! In fact, they can speak better than most other parrot species. They learn by picking up sounds and phrases humans make.

HEDGEHOGS

How do you handle such a prickly pet? You get to know it! A hedgehog lets out its quills (spikes) when it's feeling scared or uncomfortable. Pet owners learn to read their hedgie's moods, so they know it's best to pick them up when they're happy and relaxed. That way their quills won't be out.

HERMIT CRABS

Did you know that hermit crabs do not produce their own shells? In the wild, they use old shells other animals have left behind. Pet owners have to buy their crabs a variety of shells. About twice a year, they molt (shed their skin) and grow, so they'll need a larger shell when they're done.

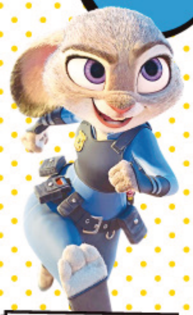
HAMSTERS

Hamsters love a good workout! Their cages must have a wheel for them to run around in, and they also enjoy being put inside a clear plastic ball, made especially for them, and running around your house. Because they're nocturnal, they'll want to do all this later in the day.

AXOLOTLOWNER/SHUTTERSTOCK; PANPILAI PAIPA/SHUTTERSTOCK; JAGODKA/SHUTTERSTOCK; RITA_KOCHMARJOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; VIOREL SIMA/ SHUTTERSTOCK; MARK BRANDON/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARINAKARPENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK

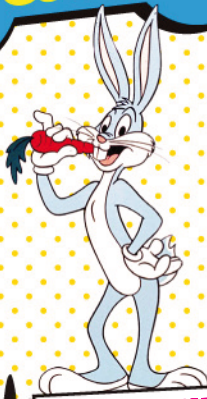
RABBIT

Which character will hop to the top of your list?



JUDY HOPPS from **ZOOTOPIA**

VS

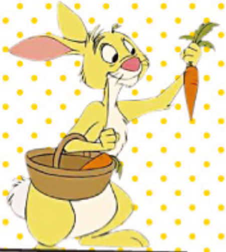


BUGS BUNNY from **LOONEY TUNES**

Your pick:

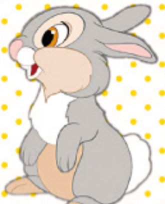
VS

Your pick:



RABBIT from **WINNIE THE POOH**

VS

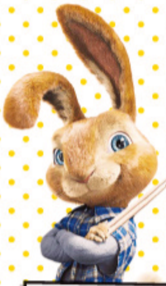


THUMPER from **BAMBI**

Your pick:

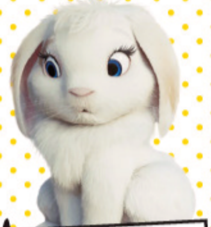
VS

Your pick:



E.B. from **HOP**

VS

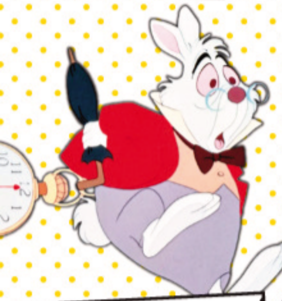


BUNGEE from **OVER THE MOON**

Your pick:

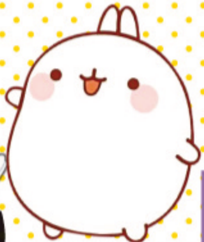
VS

Your pick:



THE WHITE RABBIT from **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

VS



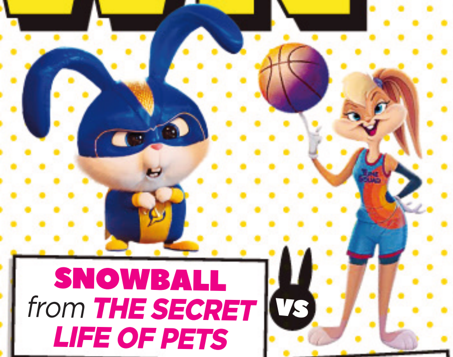
MOLANG from **MOLANG**

Your pick:

MOVIESTORE/SHUTTERSTOCK (3); DISNEY (3); UNIVERSAL PICTURES; NETFLIX (2); MILLIMAGES; ILLUMINATION/UNIVERSAL/ KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; WARNER BROTHERS; TOUCHSTONE/ AMBLIN/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; COLUMBIA PICTURES/ MOVIESTORE/SHUTTERSTOCK; CARTOON NETWORK; PBS

SHOWDOWN

DIRECTIONS: For each bracketed pair, pick your favorite bunny character. Repeat with each pair on both pages until you discover your answer in the middle.



SNOWBALL from ***THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS***

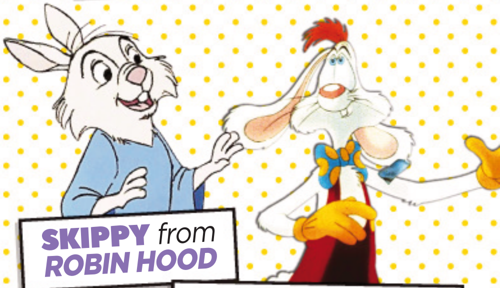
VS

LOLA BUNNY from ***SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY***

Your pick:

Your pick:

VS



SKIPPY from ***ROBIN HOOD***

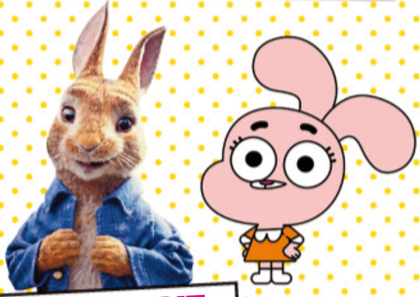
VS

ROGER RABBIT from ***WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?***

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:



PETER RABBIT from ***PETER RABBIT***

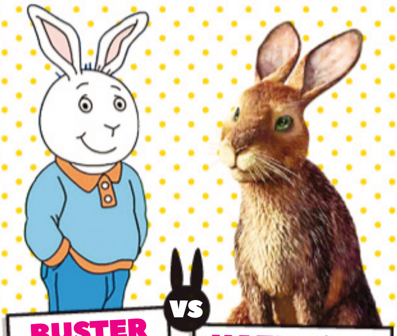
VS

ANAIS WATTERSON from ***THE AMAZING WORLD OF GUMBALL***

Your pick:

Your pick:

VS



BUSTER BAXTER from ***ARTHUR***

VS

HAZEL from ***WATERSHIP DOWN***

Your pick:

EASTER EGG

CAT

What you'll need:

- 1 egg, hard-boiled
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- orange food coloring
- 1 sheet thick orange felt
- 1 sheet pink felt
- paintbrush
- paint in white, black and pink
- hot glue gun

Directions:

1 With a parent's help, bring ½ cup of water to a boil, then pour the water into a cup and mix with the vinegar and 10-15 drops of food coloring.

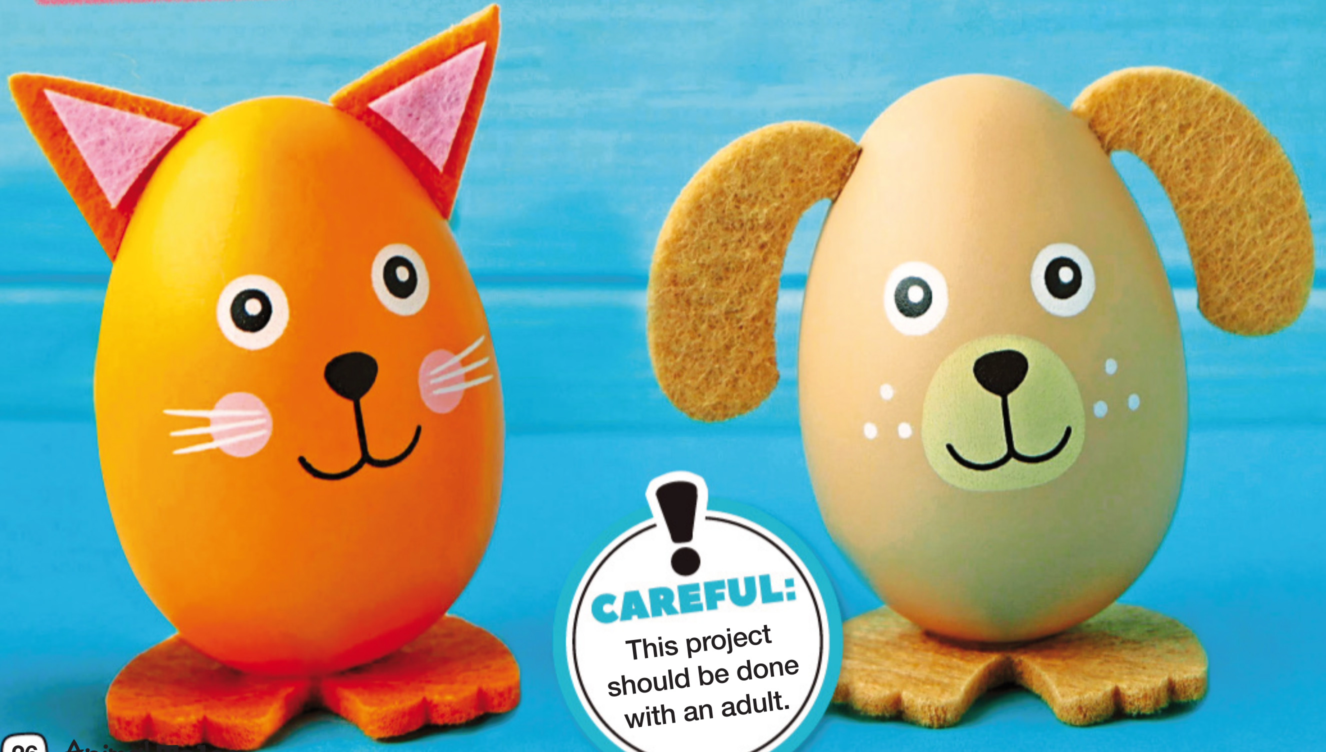
2 Drop your egg into the cup, keeping it there for 5 minutes to soak in the color. Remove the egg from the cup using tongs or a slotted spoon, then let the egg dry.

3 Cut triangular ears and rounded feet from the orange felt. Cut smaller triangles from the pink felt.

4 Once the eggs are dry, start painting on the facial features. Create each eye with three circles — a large white one, a medium black one and a small white one.

5 With the black paint, create the cat's nose and mouth. Paint on the cat's cheeks using the pink paint and paint white whiskers over them.

6 Use the hot glue gun to attach the cat's ears and feet.



CAREFUL: This project should be done with an adult.

S for Pet Lovers!

Make them at home before April 9!

DOG

What you'll need:

- 1 egg, hard-boiled
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- brown food coloring
- 1 sheet thick brown felt
- paintbrush
- paint in white, black and tan
- hot glue gun

Directions:

1 Ask a parent to help you bring ½ cup of water to a boil, then pour the water into a cup and mix with the vinegar and 5 drops of food coloring.

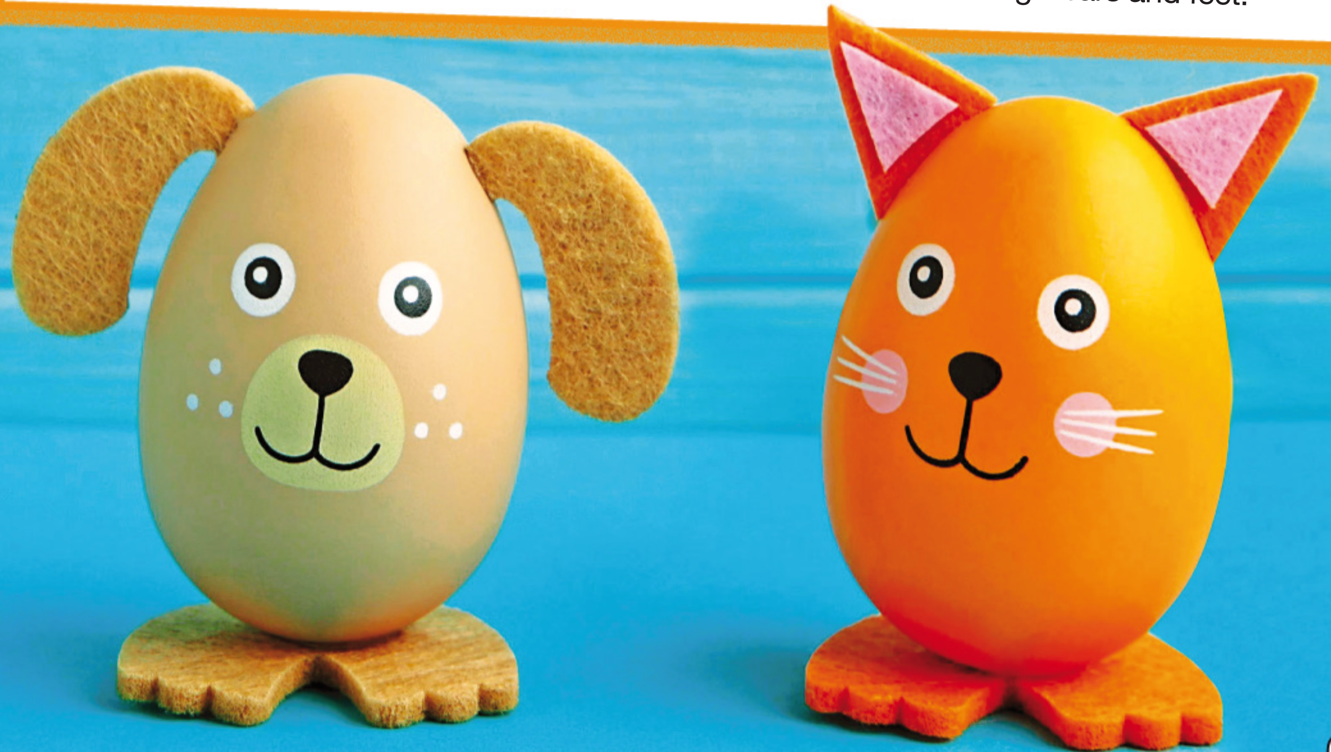
2 Drop your egg into the cup and let it soak in the color for 5 minutes. Afterwards, remove the egg from the cup using tongs or a slotted spoon. Let the egg dry.

3 Cut long, droopy ears and rounded feet out of the brown felt.

4 Once the eggs are dry, start painting on the facial features. Create each eye with three circles — a large white one, a medium black one and a small white one.

5 With the tan paint, create the dog's round muzzle. Inside of it, paint the black nose and mouth. Give the dog freckles with the white paint.

6 Use the hot glue gun to attach the dog's ears and feet.



MOUSE FAMILY/SHUTTERSTOCK

WE ♥ Sloths

Learn more about these adorable animals!

Can you guess what's the slowest mammal on Earth? Spoiler alert: It's the sloth! In fact, these mammals only move around 120 feet a day. They live in Central and South America and spend most of their time high up in the canopies of the tropical rain forests they call home. On a typical day, you can spot them hanging upside-down from branches and sleeping for long periods of time!

TELLING THEM APART

There are two different families of sloths: three-fingered and two-fingered. Within these two families are six sloth species that weigh from 9 to 12 pounds and vary between 24 to 28 inches long. Besides their number of fingers — which have strong, long claw-like finger bones that help them grip branches — you can tell the two families apart by a few other features as well. Three-fingered sloths have a raccoon-like band across their eyes and a four-inch tail, while two-fingered sloths don't have tails and their fur is lighter in color.

TAKING THEIR TIME

When it comes to eating, there's no rush for these animals, according to Judy Avey-Arroyo, founder of the Sloth Sanctuary of Costa Rica (they help sloths who have lost their homes due to habitat disruption). "A sloth's food source is leaves, which it digests through its multi-chambered stomach," Judy tells us. "It takes a sloth about 30 days to digest a single meal of leaves! With such a slow digestion, the animal needs to conserve its energy, which is why it moves so slowly."

Sloths got their name because they move so slow, not because they're lazy!

Sloths only come down from the treetops to go to the bathroom!

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

These slow-moving mammals may seem vulnerable to predators like eagles and jaguars, but the color of their coat actually helps them blend in with their surroundings. "They can stay hidden in plain sight

ACCARVALHOPHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; KUNGVERYLUCKY/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROB JANSEN/SHUTTERSTOCK

due to their natural camouflage, the scent of algae in their fur, and their ability to stay absolutely motionless for long periods," Judy explains.

Sadly, the sloth's biggest threat isn't even predators, it's habitat destruction by humans. Every minute, a forest the size of 20 football fields is cut down, which leaves sloths homeless. To learn about ways you can help protect sloths, check out our sidebar! 🐾

How you can help sloths today!

Protecting sloths and their habitat is easier than you think!

- **Switch to recycled paper.** You'll slow down deforestation by using recycled products.
- **"Adopt" a sloth.** With an adult's help, visit slothsanctuary.com for more information about their Symbolic Adoption program.
- **Write a letter.** Ask your teacher if your class can email or write letters to the Central and South American governments, urging them to preserve the rain forests that are home to sloths.

Sloths sleep between 9 and 12 hours per day.

Drink your WATER!

All mammals need H2O, including you! These make drinking it more fun.

HOPPY FROG

With the fun froggy design, rainbow decals and heart-shaped keychain, this water bottle will keep you happy and hydrated.

Green Frog Rainbow Water Bottle, $14, claires.com

PORTABLE PENGUIN

You can throw this penguin water bottle right into your backpack and it won't leak!

Penguin Stainless Steel Water Bottle, $18, amazon.com

NOPE
NOT TODAY

SASSY SLOTH

This tumbler was made for sloth fans who have a little bit of attitude. Show it off!

Tervis Sloth Nope Not Today 24-Oz Insulated Tumbler, $20, amazon.com

TINY TEDDY

You can't carry your teddy bear everywhere, so why not carry this adorable little bear bottle?

Kawaii Bear Water Bottle, $17, amazon.com

COOL CAT

This iridescent cup is already super-chic and the cat ears on the lid make it even better! *UWU Shop Glitter Cat Reuseable Plastic Cup, $16, walmart.com*

SHARK SIPS

This tumbler lets you take a big gulp right from the shark's mouth! It takes someone super-bold to do that. *Cool Gear 18-Ounce Shark Tumbler, $14, walmart.com*

PRETTY PUPS

Dog lovers will appreciate how many different breeds appear on this tumbler — from dalmatians to huskies. *Perrific Dog Tumbler with Lid and Straw, $23, walmart.com*

LUXE LEOPARD

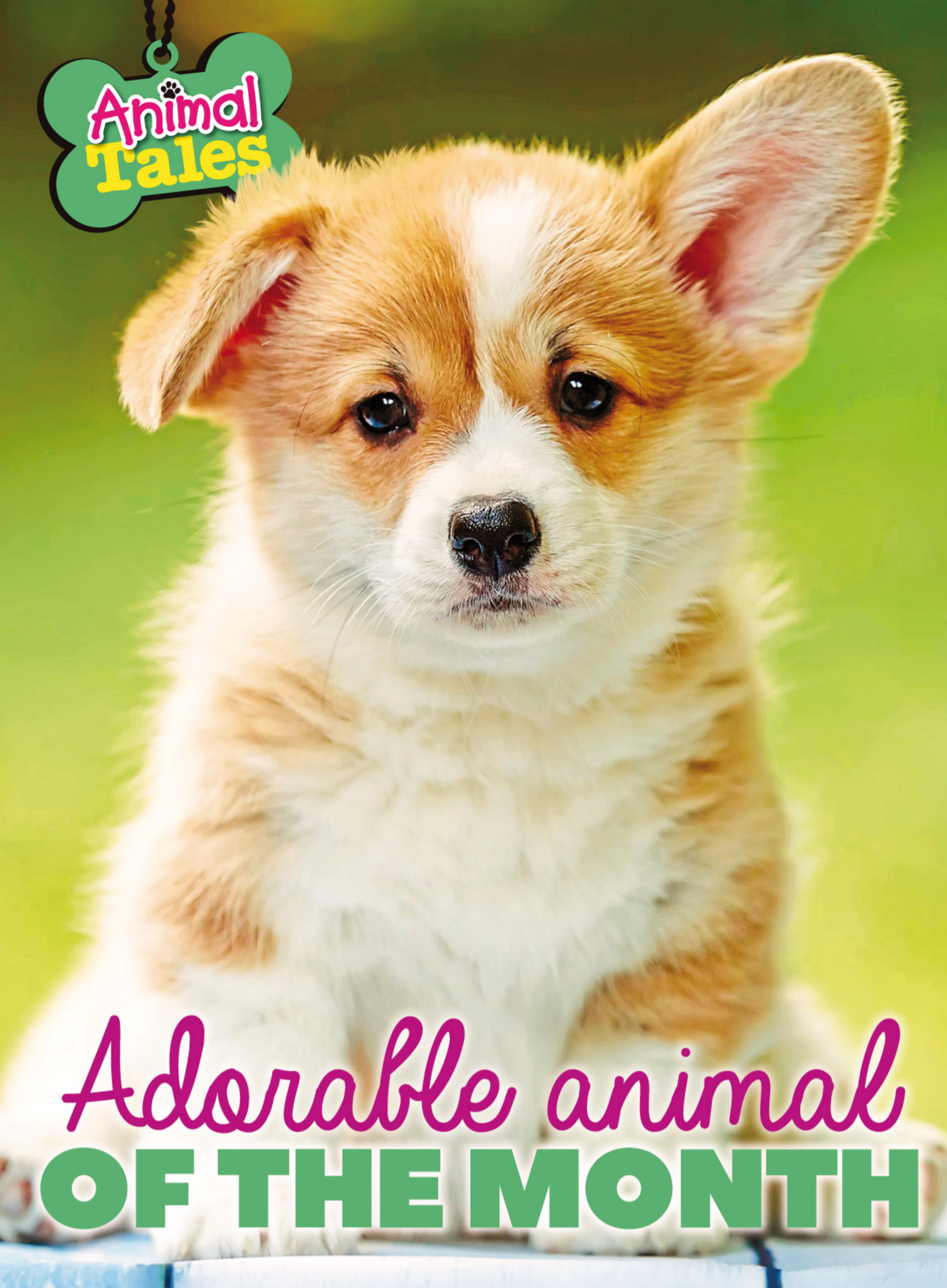
If you love animal prints and ice-cold water, this is the bottle for you! It keeps drinks cold for 24 hours. *Swig Life 30-Oz Triple Insulated Thermos Party Animal Print, $35, amazon.com*

UNIQUE GLOW

As if the unicorns and personalization didn't make this water bottle cool enough, it also glows in the dark! *Mackenzie Navy Night Unicorn Glow-in-the-Dark Water Bottles, $21, potterybarnkids.com*

DYNAMITE DINO

Fun fact: When you push in the dinosaur's teeth to take a sip from this bottle, it lets out a roar! *Sun Company RoarBottle T-Rex, $30, walmart.com*



Adorable animal OF THE MONTH

PICK THE NEXT WINNER!

CUT OUT AND KEEP!

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! Did you know American Shorthairs came over on the Mayflower? They were used to hunt rats on the ship.

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! Young sheep, a.k.a. lambs, are happiest when they're with their flock, which can have up to 50 sheep.

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! Pit bulls used to be known as nanny dogs because they're so gentle and affectionate with children.

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! All young sea lions are born with a lanugo, or a short coat of hair. It will molt (shed) as they age.

Vote for your favorite!

SEND US YOUR VOTE!

Select the most adorable animal and email your vote to mail@animaltalesmag.com with "Animal of the Month" in the subject line.

○ KITTEN

○ LAMB

○ PUPPY

○ SEA LION

NATALIA FEDOSOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; TOP PHOTO ENGINEER/SHUTTERSTOCK; POZDEYEV VITALY/SHUTTERSTOCK; SVETIKOVAV/SHUTTERSTOCK; CLAUDE WEISS/SHUTTERSTOCK

GO ON SAFARI!

Find out what it's like to have this animal experience in Africa!

Every place has cool creatures, but there's no doubt about it: Some of the most exciting wildlife can be found on the continent of Africa. When you go "on safari" in Africa, you take a trip to see creatures like lions, giraffes, zebras, hippos, elephants, cheetahs, rhinos and leopards in their natural habitat.

THE BASICS

Although you can see wild animals in other parts of the world, a safari (which means "journey" in the African language of Swahili) takes place only in Africa. Safaris grew out of the journeys that traders in Africa would make to sell their goods in other places. People started taking these trips for fun in order to see the animals along the way. Today, most people on safari are led by local guides who are familiar with the animals and where they hang out. How? Safari guides know a lot about animal behavior — how they act, when they eat, when their babies are born — which gives them clues about where the animals will be.

WHAT YOU DO ON SAFARI

Safari guides take visitors into the wilderness in open-air vehicles so they can see their surroundings. But everyone has to stay very quiet so you don't bother the animals — and so the animals don't bother you! You can't touch or feed the animals because they are wild. Most people take pictures or videos of the

BLUEORANGE STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK (3); JAYSI/SHUTTERSTOCK; MAGGY MEYER/SHUTTERSTOCK; CAUTRON LIVE/
SHUTTERSTOCK; STEPHAN OLIVIER/SHUTTERSTOCK; ONDREJ CHVATAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; JONATHAN PLEDGER/SHUTTERSTOCK

creatures as they play, eat, run and more. You want to see as many animals as possible, so safari trips last between one and two weeks. During that time, you can stay in small hotels called lodges or you can camp in tents. But you're not alone — local people are there to cook you food and to keep you safe.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

As well as seeing well-known animals like lions and elephants, you'll see creatures you might not have even heard of, like wildebeest or warthogs. As you travel around, you'll learn about the creatures you see. You may learn to identify an animal by its tracks. You'll hear what a lion sounds like and listen to a guide explaining why it's roaring. Although you might have read about African animals or seen them in the zoo, on safari you see them in the wild, without fences or cages. That's the best part— seeing nature at its wildest!

LOOK OUT FOR THE BIG FIVE

Seeing these animals is on every safari bucket list. What is the Big Five? Originally, it was the list of creatures that were the hardest to hunt. But because people now realize we have to protect animals, hunting on safari has been replaced with viewing and photographing them.

1 **LION** These big cats can be dangerous, so keep your distance!

2 **ELEPHANT** These giants are the largest land animals on Earth.

3 **CAPE BUFFALO** This is one animal you might not expect! They are distantly related to cows, but they're not nearly as sweet.

4 **LEOPARD** Another big cat, leopards like laying in trees during the day and hunting at night.

5 **RHINOCEROS** These endangered animals can run very fast — up to 30 miles per hour.

Puppy Dog BI

HOW TO PLAY:

1 Each player will need coins (or cereal pieces if they're easier to track down) to mark off squares on your board when the time comes.

2 Everyone should start with a coin on the free space in the center of the board.

3 Your family should play when you're all hanging out at home for a few hours. Instead of calling out letters and numbers, you will all spend time hanging out with your dog, and when they do something listed on your board, place a coin on that box. So if they let out a bark and you have "Barks" on your board, you would cover it.

4 Play until one player has five coins in a row either horizontally, vertically or diagonally. That person has to shout "Bingo" to win the game. We hope you enjoy playing as much as your pup enjoys all the attention!

Barks	Digs	Pants	Grooms them-selves	Jumps up
Plays with a toy	Drinks out of their water dish	Ears perk up	Gives you a kiss	Yawns
Gives you puppy dog eyes	Wants to play fetch	**FREE SPACE**	Chases their tail	Asks for a belly rub
Sits	Eats out of their food dish	Sniffs	Whines	Rolls over
Steals your food	Runs	Wags tail	Stretches	Wants to go for a walk

Lays down	Wags tail	Growls	Begs for a treat	Rolls over
Sleeps in a funny position	Runs	Sits	Sniffs	Chews on a bone
Whines	Tilts head	**FREE SPACE**	Steals your food	Gives you a kiss
Stretches	Yawns	Gives you puppy dog eyes	Wants to play fetch	Chases their tail
Plays with a toy	Wants to go for a walk	Ears perk up	Digs	Barks

Cut out the Bingo boards and hand one to each player!

NGO!

Have a pet dog at home? Play this game with your family!

Sits	Sniffs	Gives you puppy dog eyes	Wants to play fetch	Chases their tail
Asks for a belly rub	Eats out of their food dish	Barks	Digs	Pants
Growls	Begs for a treat	**FREE SPACE**	Rolls over	Sleeps in a funny position
Wants to go for a walk	Lays down	Wags tail	Grooms themselves	Tilts head
Jumps up	Drinks out of their water dish	Stretches	Yawns	Whines

NADYA_ART/SHUTTERSTOCK

Gives you a kiss	Yawns	Whines	Chews on a bone	Tilts head
Steals your food	Stretches	Lays down	Wags tail	Grooms themselves
Jumps up	Plays with a toy	**FREE SPACE**	Drinks out of their water dish	Ears perk up
Runs	Barks	Digs	Pants	Growls
Begs for a treat	Asks for a belly rub	Sleeps in a funny position	Eats out of their food dish	Sniffs

THROW A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOUR DOG!

Celebrate your pup's big day the right way!

INVITE PUPPY PALS

Make bone-shaped invitations out of construction paper with all the event details on them. Host the event on your pup's birthday (or close to it) and invite your friends to come over with their dogs to help celebrate!

SET UP DOG-APPROVED DECOR

Here are some easy ways to pooch-ify your party space:

Draw paw prints on the walkway leading up to your front door with sidewalk chalk.

Ask a parent to help you make dog-shaped balloon animals to use as centerpieces.

You can make helium balloons look like puppies, too! Just draw a face with markers and tape on paper ears.

Make a tennis ball garland! Ask a parent to poke holes through tennis balls. Then, you can connect them with string.

RUTH BLACK/SHUTTERSTOCK; TIMQUO/SHUTTERSTOCK

SERVE PAW-SOME SNACKS

It’s important that all of the treats at your dog’s big bash are safe for him to eat — and yummy, too! Try these ideas that will have their tails wagging:

Serve water and assorted dog treats in cheap dog bowls found at the dollar store.

Make pup-sicles by blending two tablespoons of peanut butter, half of a banana and ½ cup of plain yogurt. Freeze the mixture in ice cube trays to make 12 treats!

Get a dog-friendly cake or ice cream at your pet store.

IT’S PAW-TY TIME

Your pup and their furry friends will love these fun activities:

Play festive tunes, like “Who Let the Dogs Out” and “Dog Days Are Over.”

Ask your friends to bring a costume for their pup to wear in a doggie fashion show! Award the winner “Best in Show.”

Play a game of “Scooby Says!” Give each dog a command, like sit or stay. Whoever holds the command the longest gets a special treat.

Play Pup-sical Chairs. Leash all the dogs and walk around while the music is playing. Once it stops, the pups have to sit. The last one to do so is out!

SEND THEM HOME WITH A DOGGIE BAG!

You can’t let your pup’s friends leave without a little party favor! Send them off with a tasty treat, wrapped with ribbon to make it look like a present!

OUT-OF-THI
ANIMA

DOGS

Dogs have three eyelids. The third one is called the nictitating membrane, and it's responsible for producing tears and keeping a dog's eye moist.

CATS

Cats are the only mammal that cannot taste sweet things. Scientists believe the genes needed to taste sweetness got switched off many years ago.

RABBITS

Bunny rabbits have unique teeth — they never stop growing. They're ground down when a rabbit chews on grass or hay, but they grow back just as quickly.

BEARS

Did you know that black bears don't need to be black? Their fur can be black, brown, cinnamon, blond, blue-gray or even white.

FOXES

Red foxes have hearing so good it's almost supersonic! They can hear a mouse squeak from over 100 feet away.

MONKEYS

Monkeys spend a lot of time searching for the perfect tree to sleep in. Why? Because they sleep sitting upright, so they need to make sure they won't fall!

S-WORLD L FACTS!

You won't believe they're true!

FLAMINGOS
The pink birds flip their heads upside down to eat! While eating, the top part of their beaks needs to be on the bottom to filter out mud and water.

SHARKS
Great white sharks have a seriously impressive sense of smell. They can sniff out a drop of blood in the water from three miles away.

FROGS
Frogs have a 360-degree view! It's true, their eyes are set so far apart on their faces that they can see everything around and even behind them.

SNAILS
A snail can take a three-year nap! They need moisture in their environment to survive, and if they don't have it, they go to sleep for up to three years.

SAWITREE PROMPHITHUKKUL/SHUTTERSTOCK

SIBERIAN SPRING/SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

You can lean on me!
Animal Tales

HUNG CHUNG CHIH/SHUTTERSTOCK

SUPERSTAR STATUS

YATZEK PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK

GTW/IMAGEBROKER/SHUTTERSTOCK

THERE ARE A CHAMELEON REASONS WHY YOU'RE AWESOME!

FERNANDHA THEORY/SHUTTERSTOCK

UNTERWEGS/SHUTTERSTOCK

iT'S TiME FOR A BUBBLE BATH!

PICTURES 10 STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

TRATONG/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOPPY Easter

AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; HELLOSSTK/SHUTTERSTOCK

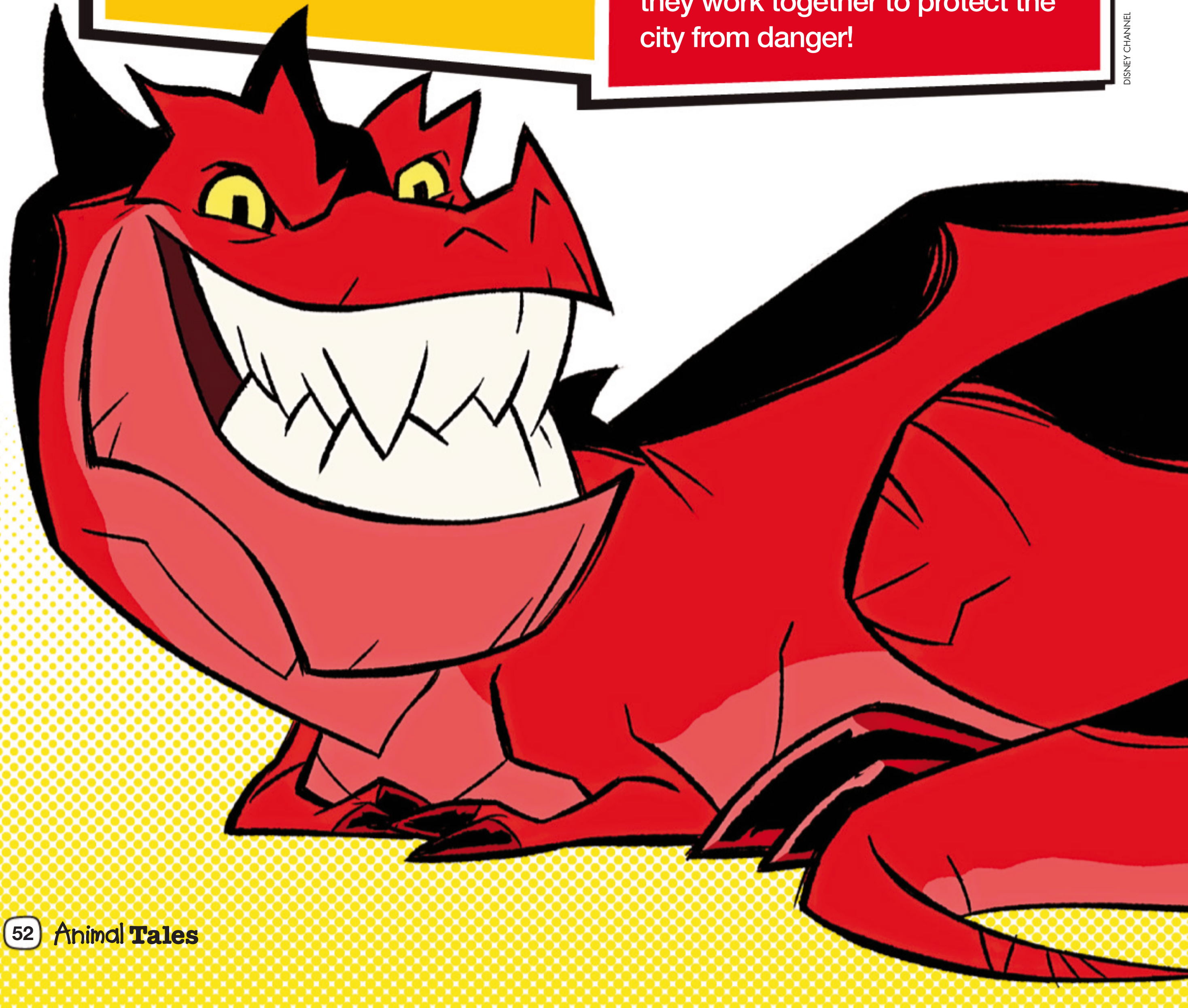
Animal Tales

STU PORTER/SHUTTERSTOCK; LIMOLIDA DESIGN STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

ALL ABOUT DEVIL D

He stars in *Marvel's Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*, which premieres February 10 on Disney Channel and the first six episodes begin streaming February 15 on Disney+!

On the animated show, 13-year-old super-genius Lunella Lafayette, a.k.a. Moon Girl, accidentally brings Devil Dinosaur to her hometown, and they work together to protect the city from danger!



DISNEY CHANNEL

INOSAUR!

We're introducing you to the new Marvel character!

NAME: Devil Dinosaur

HEIGHT: 20 feet

WEIGHT: 10 tons (depending on how many hot dogs he's had that day!)

LOCATION: New York City's Lower East Side

JOB: Fighting crime with Moon Girl

HE'S MOST PROUD OF: Being the best crime-fighting partner a superhero could ask for

HE'S FAMOUS FOR: His sonic roar and fierce tail swipe

HIS MOST SURPRISING SKILL: Painting — he's a brilliant artist who's inspired by Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollack and the Renaissance greats

HIS FAVORITE GAMES: Playing fetch with manhole covers in Central Park and roller skating using taxi cabs for skates

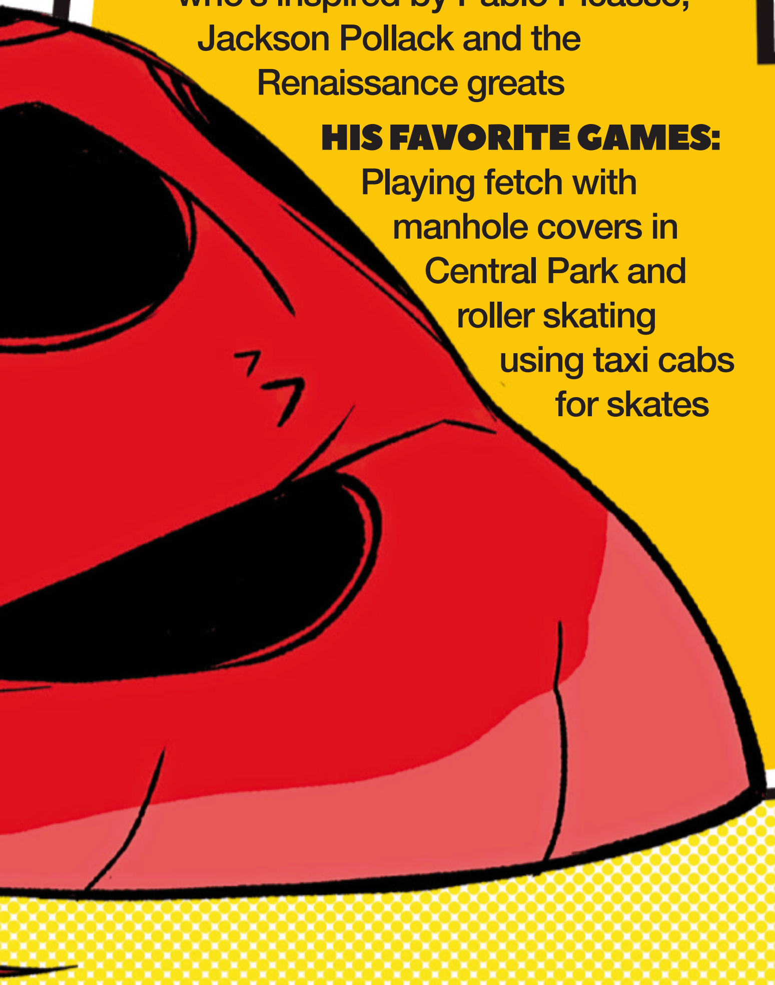
HE CHILLS OUT BY: Meditating and practicing mindfulness

HIS GROSSEST HABIT: Going dumpster diving

HIS FAVORITE PLACE IN NYC: The museums — he's one of the city's most devoted patrons of the arts

HE'S HAPPIEST WHEN HE'S: Eating hot dogs

HIS LIFE'S MISSION: Taking down baddies with Moon Girl



THE ULTIMATE SCAVENG

DIRECTIONS: Divide into two even teams and try to complete as many tasks listed below as you can. Once done, check it off the list and continue on to the next one. The team that checks off the most things within two hours or finishes first wins. Good luck!

- ☐ Have each team member embrace their inner puppy. How? Act like one for 30 seconds.
- ☐ Find an animal-themed T-shirt and have one team member wear it for the rest of the game.
- ☐ Grab any two colors of nail polish and give one of your teammates a tiger-inspired striped manicure.
- ☐ Convince someone to sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" with you and your group.
- ☐ Find three DVDs with animated animals on the cover and stack them on the table.
- ☐ Make a bunny-shaped shadow puppet on the wall.
- ☐ Search for a stuffed animal in your house and carry it around the rest of the game.
- ☐ Draw a butterfly on a piece of paper and hang it up on your fridge.
- ☐ Find a book that has the word "cat" in it.
- ☐ Only answer conversations by barking for the next five minutes.

ANKOMANDO/SHUTTERSTOCK

ER HUNT!

Challenge your family and friends to this fun finding game!

- ☐ Take a group pic holding your favorite Animal Tales poster.
- ☐ Write down 10 animals that live in the Arctic and leave the list in your mailbox.
- ☐ Spot 10 animal-themed items around your house.
- ☐ Every group member has to reveal their favorite animal fact.
- ☐ Borrow a tie from a loved one. Have one person wear it as a tail!
- ☐ Find a map, choose a country on it without looking and name an animal that lives there.
- ☐ Get a friend to do the chicken dance with you!
- ☐ Have one teammate whistle like a bird for 15 seconds.
- ☐ Go outside and find four different types of bugs. Then, show a pic of each of them to someone on the other team.
- ☐ Have every group member reveal what kind of animal they'd want to be.

SAVED FROM EXTINCTION!

These species that were on the brink of disappearing from Earth, but not anymore!

BALD EAGLE

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is a law in the United States that helps to save threatened and endangered animals from extinction.

That's right, the national bird of the United States nearly disappeared from our country! In the 1960s, when chemicals used to help with our agriculture began to flow into bodies of water where bald eagles would get their fish, the chemicals caused the population to drop to around 830 eagles. Luckily, environmentalists stepped in to help create the Endangered Species Act to help protect them, and in 2007, the bald eagle was officially taken off the endangered species list!

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

The American alligator has an important role: It's the official state reptile of Louisiana, Florida and Mississippi! That's one of the many reasons why saving it from the endangered species list was so important. They were close to extinction because of hunting and humans taking over their natural habitats. The good news is that in less than 15 years of working to keep them safe, they were removed from the endangered list!

HUMPBACK WHALE

Sadly, humpback whales became endangered after years of being hunted by fishermen. When whaling was banned, the population started to go back up and continues to rise today. There were once only 5,000 humpbacks in the world, there are now more than 135,000. And they just made it off the endangered special list in Australia last year!

RED KANGAROO

When you think of Australia, kangaroos are probably one of the first things that come to mind, but these creatures faced the threat of extinction! That's because they were being hunted and sold around the world. Australia hopped into action to make sure the red kangaroo would be safe from harm and now there are millions of them in the wild.

WEST VIRGINIA FLYING SQUIRREL

Because of wildfires and the chopping of trees in the forests they called home, these small squirrels almost went extinct. To help them, humans began to plant new forests with trees before for the squirrels to live in, and their hard work paid off! Not only did the species come back, it also started to move into new places it hadn't been seen before. Today, conservationists continue to plant more forests for the squirrels.

FLORIDASTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK; JIM SCHWABEL/SHUTTERSTOCK; NICO FARAMAZ/SHUTTERSTOCK; JASON BENZ BENNEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; GLASS AND NATURE/SHUTTERSTOCK

What's your BOOKWORM NAME?

Follow the steps below to find out!

1. Find your first initial:

A – Studious
B – Amazing
C – Mysterious
D – Energetic
E – Funny
F – Nibbling
G – Inspiring
H – Sweet
I – Unique
J – Fiery
K – Gentle
L – Squirmy
M – Fuzzy
N – Novel
O – Magical
P – Neon
Q – Sparkly
R – Hilarious
S – Rebellious
T – Extraordinary
U – Adventurous
V – Brilliant
W – Compassionate
X – Devious
Y – Memorable
Z – Zany

2. Find your birth month:

January – Paperback
February – Bookmark
March – Bestseller
April – Pages
May – Page-Turner
June – Poet
July – Fiction
August – Storyteller
September – Character
October – Titles
November – Chapters
December – Librarian

BIBADASH/SHUTTERSTOCK

My bookworm name is:

____

____

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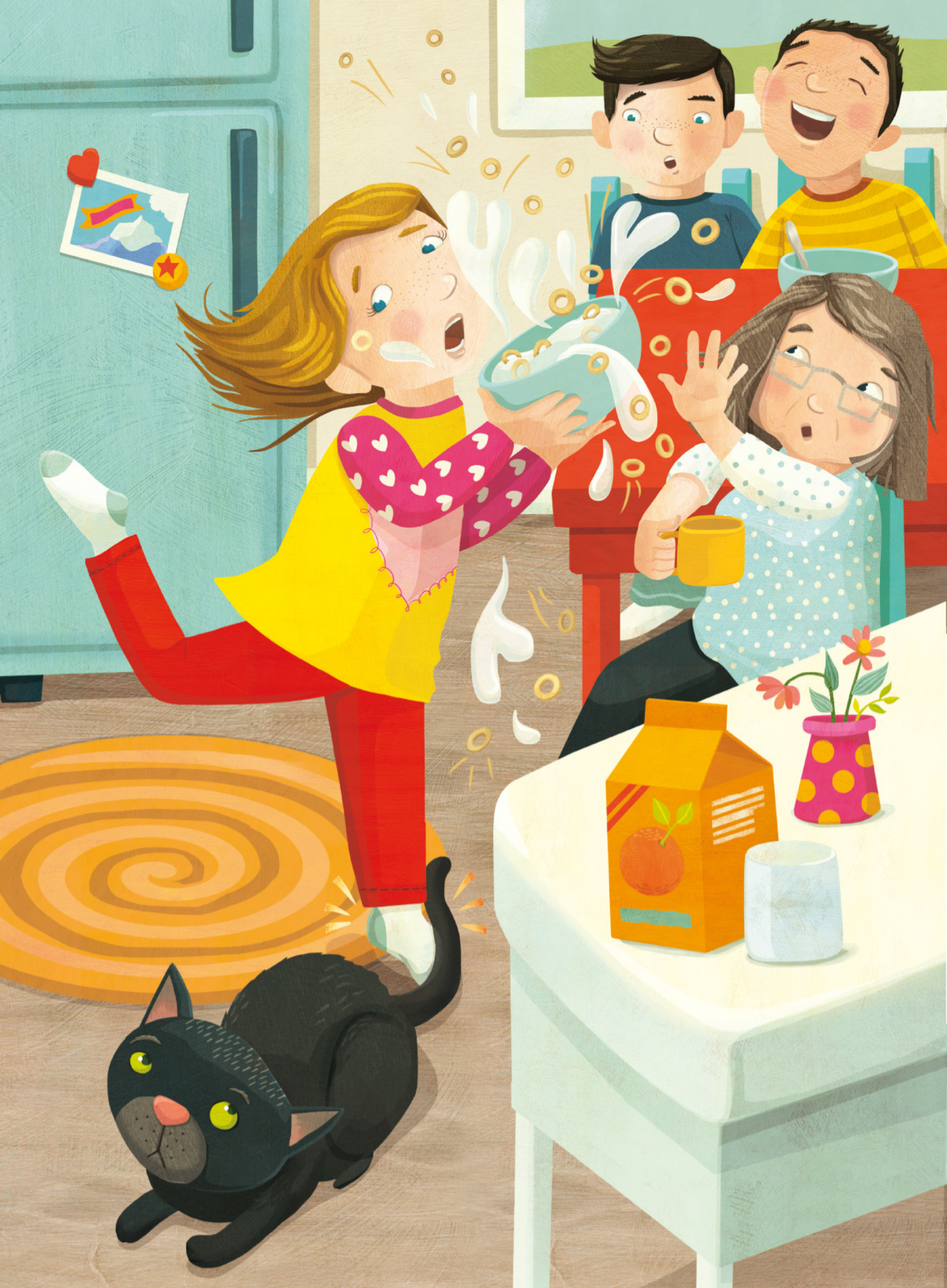


JINX!

“Honey, watch where you’re —” Olivia heard her grandma begin to say, but it was too late. She took a tumble, falling onto the kitchen floor and sending her freshly poured bowl of cereal and milk flying.

She looked around to see what caused her to trip and spotted Gram’s cat Jinx, a.k.a. her archnemesis.

“Of course, it’s all Jinx’s fault,” Olivia grumbled. “I’m, like, the opposite of a klutz … except when she’s around.”

“Stop calling her Jinx!” Gram said from across the room, where she was cleaning up the mess. “You know her name is Jingles.”

Technically, it was. Gram had gotten the black cat three years ago and named her Jingles because she thought her meows sounded like jingling bells. Olivia didn’t think so, but Gram could call her cat what she wanted. She was going to keep calling the little monster Jinx.

Olivia older brother, Austin, and cousin, Theo, had come up with the nickname. At first, Olivia didn’t believe them when they said she was bad luck. They claimed she’d made them lose a video game tournament with their friends from next door, but Olivia wasn’t so sure that had anything to do with Jinx.

After a while though, she realized things always seemed to go wrong when Jinx was around. There was the time Jinx jumped up on the table in Gram’s den and orange soda spilled all over the picture Olivia was almost finished painting and the family party where Jinx woke up from her nap and a framed photo of Gram, Olivia and Austin fell off the wall and broke. Wherever Jinx went, trouble followed.

“She’ll always be Jinx to us, Gram,” Austin said, taking the words out of Olivia’s mouth.

Olivia, Austin and Theo were at Gram’s house for the weekend — something they did about once a month because she had a TV in her guestroom and all the ice cream sandwiches they wanted in her freezer.

“Yeah, she brings us the worst luck,” Theo said, then he let out a burp.

“Theodore, did you pour yourself some orange soda while I wasn’t looking?” Gram asked in her no-nonsense voice.

“Uhhh,” Theo said, but the orange mustache on his face gave him away.

“You won’t take another sip of soda for the

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA WATSON

rest of your visit, Theo," Gram scolded him.

Theo nodded, red-faced. Austin grabbed him and the two of them ran out of the kitchen and into the guestroom.

Olivia poured herself a new bowl of cereal and sat down with Gram to eat it. She kept an eye on Jinx the whole time.

"She just wants to be your buddy," Gram said. "She's the sweetest cat."

"Yeah, right. That *thing* is not sweet."

"Olivia! Don't talk like that about Jingles."

"Jinx is a menace, Gram."

"You never even gave her a chance," Gram pointed out. "You've always loved animals. You used to beg your parents for a pet cat."

"Well, I do like other cats," Olivia smiled sheepishly.

Gram looked sad, so Olivia was happy when Theo and Austin barreled back into the room and asked if they could go hang out with their friends from next door. Those boys only came to visit their grandparents a few times a year, so Olivia knew they'd be gone a while.

That meant she got the TV in the guestroom all to herself, so she put on *Encanto*, of course. She was so into the movie that she didn't realize that Jinx was curled up on the other end of the daybed until it was over.

"Gram!" she whisper-yelled because she didn't want Jinx to make any sudden movements.

"What?" Gram appeared in the doorway.

"What is Jinx doing in here?"

"She's been in here almost as long as you have. I let her in during 'Waiting on a Miracle' because she was pawing at the door."

"First of all, I'm impressed with your *Encanto* knowledge. But second of all, that song is at the beginning of the movie and nothing —"

"Nothing bad happened because she was in the room," Gram finished. "I told you she doesn't deserve the name Jinx!"

Jinx chose that moment to rub her head against Olivia's legs and look up at her with eyes that said she wanted to be petted.

Olivia wasn't sure what to do. Luckily, Austin and Theo interrupted the moment again. They came racing into the room as a loud timer went off in the distance.

"That's for my cookies," Gram said, heading to the kitchen.

"Alright! Gram's cookies" Theo cheered.

Austin wasn't in a cheering mood. He was staring at Jinx.

"What's she doing in here?" he asked.

"Yeah, we agreed. No Jinx in our room, Livy," Theo backed up Austin, as always.

"Gram let her in," Olivia said.

Austin gave her a look, then picked Jinx off the

Olivia rolled her eyes at her brother, sat down on the couch and pulled Jinx into her lap.

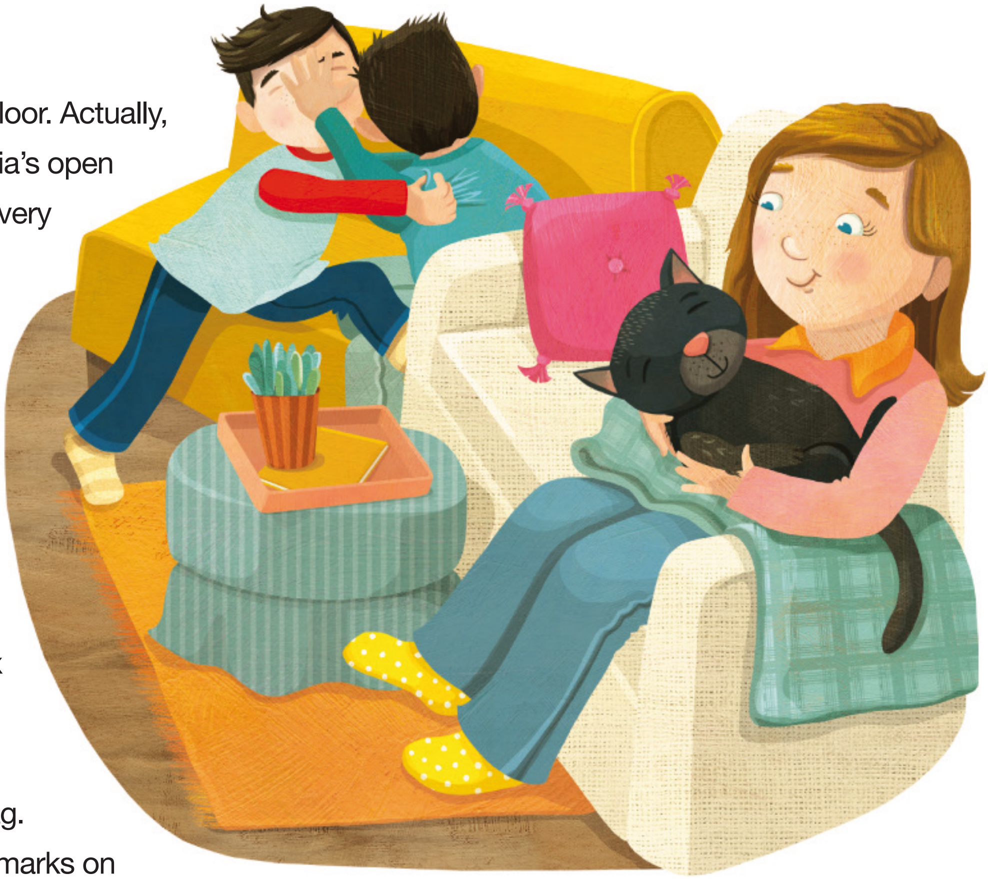
bed and placed her on the floor. Actually, he placed her on top of Olivia's open suitcase and he didn't do it very gently.

Jinx freaked out, trying to get off the unfamiliar surface.

"Why'd you do that?" Olivia asked her brother.

"Uh, before you start fighting with Austin, you might want to see what Jinx did to Mr. Bear, Livy," Theo was pointing at the stuffed animal that'd been in her bag.

There were now scratch marks on the stuffed bear's stomach.



Olivia said nothing for a few minutes because she was so annoyed. Then, she took a deep breath and went to go find Jinx. Austin and Theo followed.

"Typical, Jinx," Austin said when they found her on the living room couch. "You've had that bear since you were a baby and she ruined it."

Olivia rolled her eyes at her brother, sat down on the couch and pulled Jinx into her lap.

"What are you doing?" Austin asked.

"I'm making sure Jinx is okay after you scared her," Olivia replied like that was obvious.

"She ruined your prized possession and I'm to blame?" Austin couldn't believe his sister.

"You weren't paying attention to where you put her, and you didn't handle her with care. Of course, she was scared and her claws came out in full force."

"But … but … you know how many weird things have happened when she's around."

"Actually, I was thinking about it before and all those things we blame on her always happen when you and Theo are around."

"Hey, don't blame me!" Theo cried. "This was Austin's fault."

"Theo!" Austin sounded mad.

Her brother and cousin started fighting.

"Typical," Olivia rolled her eyes at Jinx. "Have you realized that you two are usually fighting when a lot of these 'strange things' happen?"

"Stop blaming us and stop buddying up to Jinx!" Austin turned his attention away from his now-wrestling match with Theo.

"Stop calling her Jinx!" Olivia fought back.

"Seriously?" both Theo and Austin stopped fighting to exclaim.

"Yeah," Olivia smiled down at the black cat who was purring happily. "Her name is Jingles."

HAPPY HOLLOW PARK & ZOO

EXCITED TO ENTER

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, located in San, Jose, CA, is more than just a zoo — there's also an amusement park in the 16-acre facility! You can see over 60 animal species and have a blast on family-friendly rides.

CONSERVATION HEROES

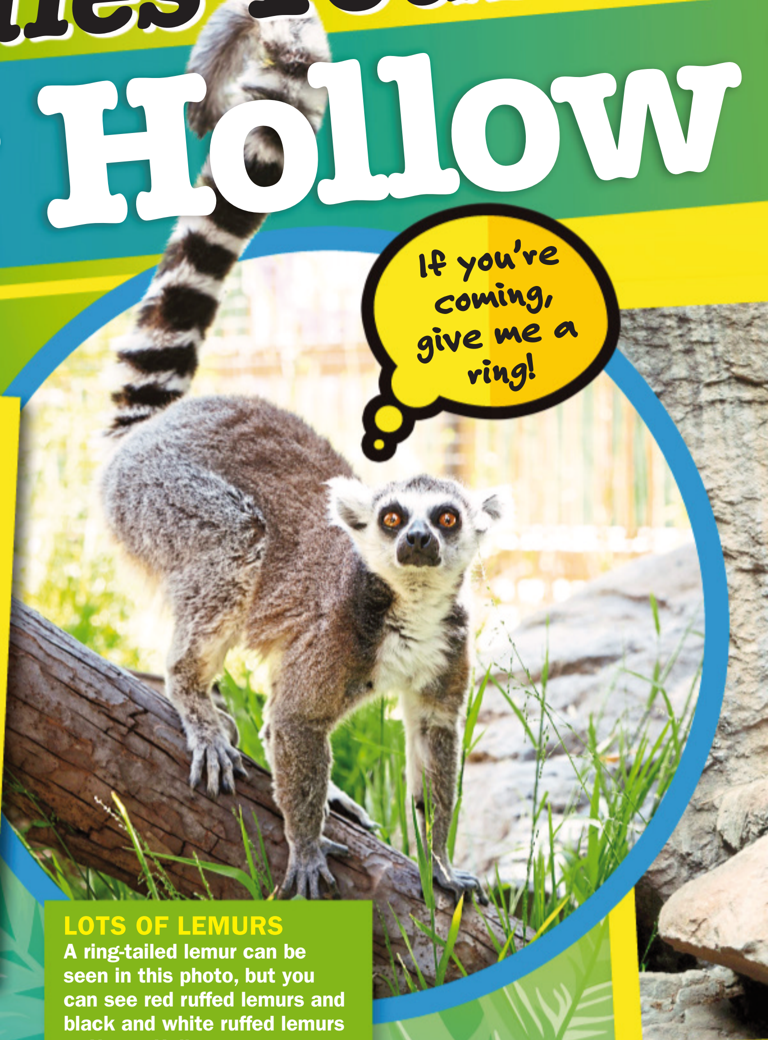
Happy Hollow supports research projects that help protect wildlife and wild places around the world. You can pick a project and donate to it at the Quarters for Conservation station.

Animal Tales Tours:

Happy Hollow

COOL CHARACTER

Danny the Dragon is Happy Hollow's mascot. You can find him walking around the zoo, and there's also a Danny the Dragon train ride.



LOTS OF LEMURS

A ring-tailed lemur can be seen in this photo, but you can see red ruffed lemurs and black and white ruffed lemurs at Happy Hollow, too.

SUPER SNACKER

At Happy Hollow, the zookeepers grow bamboo for their red pandas because it's their favorite thing to eat! They're also fed special biscuits and fruit.

GIDDY UP

You'll find more than just horses on the Keep-Around Carousel. There are make-believe creatures and endangered animals that the zoo wants you to keep in mind.

BOLD BIRDS

Happy Hollow's blue and gold macaws have different toys in their habitat to keep them physically and mentally stimulated, like they would be in the wild.

Park & Zoo

We're giving you a look inside the California zoo!

FELINE FUN

Stop by the jaguar habitat to see Sophia taking naps on her favorite ledge, taking a dip in her pool and chowing down on tasty snacks.

FEROCIOUS FOX

Meet Safar — a 10-year-old fennec fox. She's the head female and is known for being pretty fierce. She'll nip at her keeper's heels if she isn't fed fast enough!

JAMIE PHAM; HAPPY HOLLOW PARK & ZOO (7); MARK JEROME CRUZ

Silly Pet TRICKS

Wow, these are some clever critters!

Monkeys are one of the most curious species of animals around, so if one happened to spot a bicycle in the wild, it wouldn't take long before they decided to give it a try! They're smart and quick learners, so they just may win a bicycle race.

Have you noticed that most pups that can skateboard have pretty short legs? Experts believe that's because having shorter legs keeps dogs closer to the board, which makes balancing on it way easier!

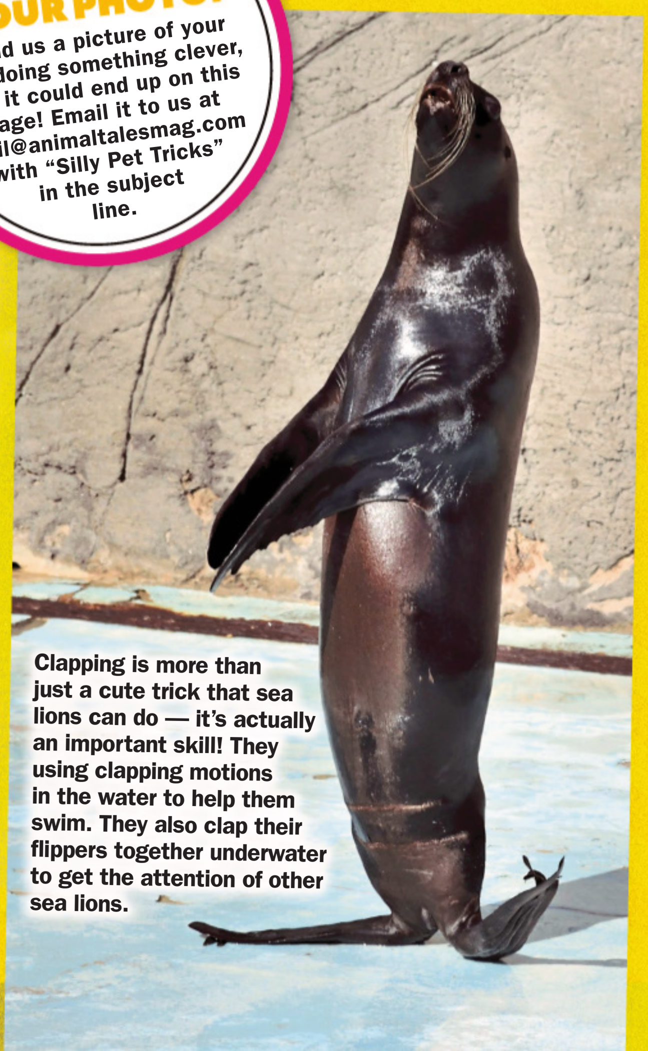
Brown bears are very intelligent animals, which is why they've learned to wave at humans! They may have watched other humans wave to each other or been trained to wave by a zookeeper. Either way, brown bears have learned that waving is often a good way to get a human's attention, which is a good way to get food!

A dog's long snout makes balancing a breeze for them, and flowers are great for that! Why? Because, like humans, dogs can sniff out the different scents of flowers. You may even spot your own dog stopping to smell flowers outside.

SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet doing something clever, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com with "Silly Pet Tricks" in the subject line.

If you ever see a cat photographer, don't expect that cat to recognize you! That's because cats can't recognize different humans in photos — even their owners. To them, all humans look the same in pictures. They can, however, tell the difference between different cats they see in pictures.


Clapping is more than just a cute trick that sea lions can do — it's actually an important skill! They using clapping motions in the water to help them swim. They also clap their flippers together underwater to get the attention of other sea lions.

ALBERT YS LOO/SHUTTERSTOCK; OLENA TSELYKH/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANGELLODECO/SHUTTERSTOCK; SARI ONEAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; BACHKOVA NATALIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; NESSSSS/SHUTTERSTOCK

So You Want to Get a CORGI!

This pup will want to spend every minute with you!

PERSONALITY

These small dogs love to be the stars of the show! Pembroke Welsh Corgis are happiest when they're getting lots of attention. They want to play with their humans all of the time. Their ancestors were bred to be herding dogs, so while they're very intelligent, they're also independent thinkers. That means they can be stubborn sometimes!

FEATURES

Corgis have stand-out features, like their big pointy ears, long bodies and short, but strong, legs. They have double coats, which means they shed a lot, especially in the spring and summer.

ACTIVITY

Corgis are smart, so they quickly learn how to do fun things, like play fetch, and do more complicated things, like agility trials. While they have lots of energy, running isn't their favorite thing because of their short legs. They prefer taking relaxing walks with their humans.

CYNOCLUB/SHUTTERSTOCK; HAPPY MONKEY/SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

FOOD

Corgis have been known to eat too much if given the chance, so making sure they have a healthy, balanced diet is a must! The foods they eat should change depending on how old they are, so the best way to start is to ask for advice from their breeder or adoption center.

GROOMING

Thanks to their thick coats, Corgis do best with daily combs to keep their fur from getting matted. They should get a bath at least once a month, or whenever they're dirty. Corgis also need regular nail trims and their teeth need to be brushed.

TRAINING

You should start training Corgis when they're young. Because they're stubborn, they'll start to make up their own rules otherwise and it'll be tricky to break them of those habits. Luckily, they pick up on training quickly and want to make their humans proud.

FUN FACT

The name Corgi has two different meanings! The "Cor" part of Corgi means both "to gather" and "dwarf." Those meanings describe their behavior and appearance. The "Gi" in Corgi means "dog" — no explanation needed for that one!

Supplies You'll Need!

Stock up on these essentials.

Ruffwear Reflective And Padded Harness, $50, amazon.com

Disney Mickey Mouse Lemon Melamine Stainless Steel Double Dog & Cat Bowl, $12, chewy.com

Hill's
SCIENCE DIET
ADULT 1-6
SMALL BITES

Hill's Science Diet Adult Small Bites Chicken & Barley Recipe Dry Dog Food, $17, chewy.com

Majestic Pet Grey Chevron Sherpa Bagel Dog Bed, $53, target.com

Top Paw Blue Rainbow Dog Leash, $20, petsmart.com

Pixar Aliens Round Plush Squeaky Dog Toy, $6, chewy.com

WHICH MEMBER OF THE DISNEY FAB FIVE ARE YOU?

You're a lot like one member of Mickey Mouse's group of friends!

Which color do you like more?

- Orange
- Red

What's your favorite thing to do when it's sunny out?

- Go swimming
- Go for a walk

Your friends would say that you're:

- So silly
- Always there for them

What gift would be better for you?

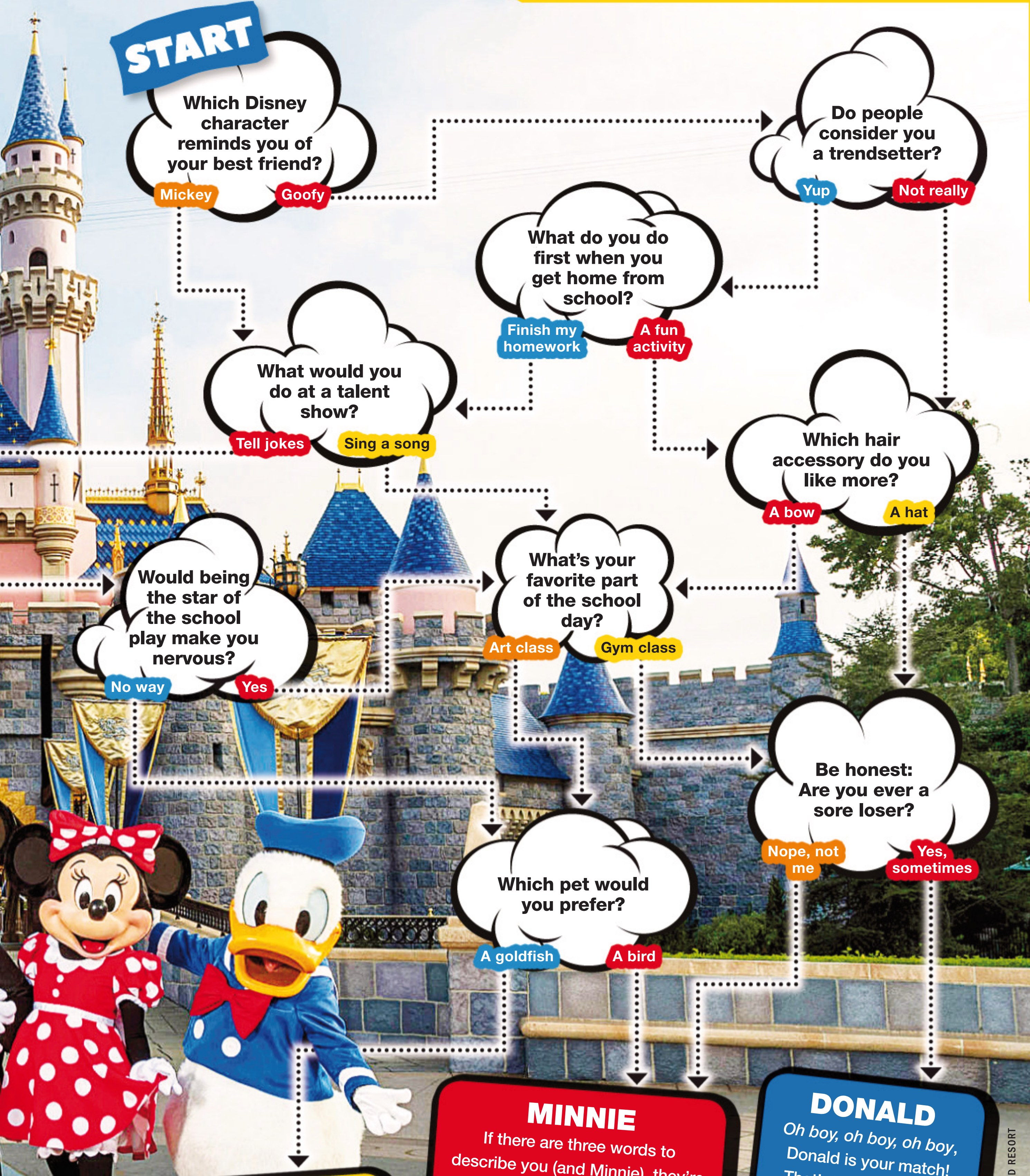
- A giant trampoline
- A new puppy

GOOFY

Well, *gawrsh*, you're as kind as you are silly! Goofy's personality is right there in his name — he's a big goof! But that's not all he is. He's also the kind of friend who always looks on the bright side of things, just like you do.

PLUTO

You and Pluto are both curious and like discovering new things. You both make sure to always be there for your friends. We bet you have a bestie who loves you as much as Mickey loves Pluto!



START

Which Disney character reminds you of your best friend?
- Mickey
- Goofy

Do people consider you a trendsetter?
- Yup
- Not really

What do you do first when you get home from school?
- Finish my homework
- A fun activity

What would you do at a talent show?
- Tell jokes
- Sing a song

Which hair accessory do you like more?
- A bow
- A hat

Would being the star of the school play make you nervous?
- No way
- Yes

What's your favorite part of the school day?
- Art class
- Gym class

Be honest: Are you ever a sore loser?
- Nope, not me
- Yes, sometimes

Which pet would you prefer?
- A goldfish
- A bird

MICKEY

Hot dog, you are the star of the show! Like Mickey Mouse, you're a natural in the spotlight. You're also excellent at making new friends and very clever. You're meant to shine bright!

MINNIE

If there are three words to describe you (and Minnie), they're sweet, outspoken and creative! You're nice to everyone, yet you still speak your mind. Plus, you're so crafty you might just own a bow-tique one day!

DONALD

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, Donald is your match! That's because you're both hard workers who are competitive! Don't worry, it's not all about being number one all the time. You're also a total jokester!

JOSHUA SUDOCK/DISNEYLAND RESORT

Animal ANTICS

If these badly-behaved creatures could talk...

These bird house things sure make finding snacks easy!

Giraffes rule, humans drool!

SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet behaving badly, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Animal Antics, 270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

I was just horsing around when I made that joke. You're overreacting!

You're embarrassing me. I'm pretending I don't know you.
Can you help me scratch this itch? I can't reach it!

Why do all these sites say more people have dogs than cats?!

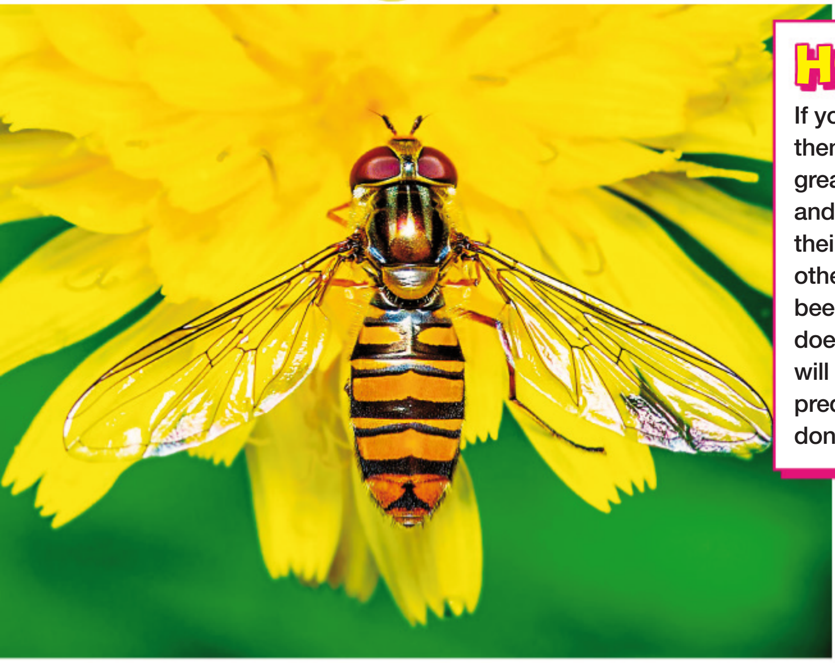
Humans aren't the only ones with friends they need to talk to!

Why would there be shoes in here? I think that's the real question!

KASSIA MARIE OTT/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANDY CROCKER/SHUTTERSTOCK; ADELIA KAMALEEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; JBUTCHER/SHUTTERSTOCK; DE JONGH PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; OSOBYSTIST/SHUTTERSTOCK; SKROTOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

The Biggest TRICKSTERS in the Animal Kingdom!

April Fools' Day was practically made for them!



HOVERFLIES

If you thought this was a bee, then you fell for the hoverfly's greatest trick! With its colors and body shape, hoverflies use their hidden identity to trick others into thinking they're bees or wasps. But the trickery doesn't end there — hoverflies will also pretend to sting predators, even though they don't actually have stingers!

Let someone else do it.

CATERPILLARS

Forget silly string, these insects have the grossest trick of all! When a caterpillar feels threatened, it'll vomit in the direction of a predator. The upchuck doesn't kill or poison the threat — it surprises them enough for the caterpillar to scurry out of harm's way.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS

The brown-headed cowbird knows how to dupe its friends! To pull of her tricky prank, a mother bird will will lay her eggs in the nest of a different bird. She'll allow that bird to care for her eggs and help them hatch — while she leaves and gets away with doing none of the work!

ORANGUTANS

Orangutans would be pros at making prank phone calls. Why? Because they've learned how to disguise their voices to trick other orangutans. When they're young and want to call out to nearby orangutans, they'll cover their mouths with a leaf, which makes their call sound lower, fooling orangutans into thinking they're older and bigger than what they actually are!

Haha — the joke's on them!

SQUIRRELS

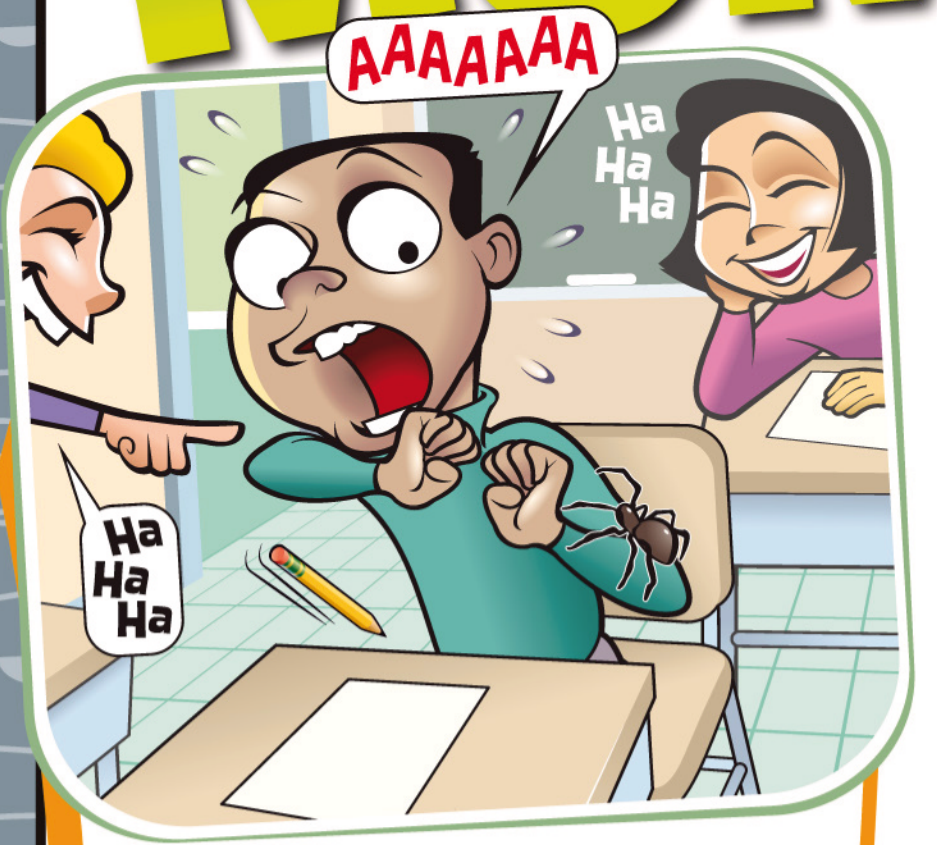
These critters have figured out a way to keep their food safe from competition, and it involves some trickery. If one squirrel notices another squirrel watching it as it attempts to bury a nut, it'll fake the squirrel out by pretending to hide the nut in one spot but then sneakily hiding it in another!

GREEN HERONS

Knock, knock! Who's there? The green heron fooling fish, that's who! This small bird species has learned the perfect way to prank their favorite food: fish. They find a spot where they can sit above the water, then drop small things like twigs or insects into it, making the fish come to the surface to investigate. Once the fish come up, the green heron swoops in and grabs their meal.

NECHAEVKON/SHUTTERSTOCK; SANDRA STANDBRIDGE/SHUTTERSTOCK; PUNKBIRDR/SHUTTERSTOCK; BBA PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; DENYS.KUTSEVALOV/SHUTTERSTOCK; BRUCE MACQUEEN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Embarrassing MOMEN



Class pet chaos

My classroom has a pet tarantula, and I've always been secretly scared of it. Because my teacher keeps it in the cage most of the time, I hardly even remember it's there. Well, one day, my friend looked in the cage and noticed that the tarantula was not in there. Our teacher told us not to panic as we started to look around. To my surprise, I saw something moving on my arm — it was the tarantula! I was screaming over and over again for someone to take it off and all of my classmates were laughing! I hope my next class pet is a hamster. — **Marcus, RI**

School stinker

Before I go to school, I feed my cats their wet food. One time, I was carrying their bowls to their spot when I tripped and some of it splashed onto me. I was running late, so I just took a paper towel and quickly wiped the wet spot. It wasn't until I was in class that I realized I didn't do a very good job. All of a sudden, kids in my class were saying the room stunk and everyone was trying to find the smell. I had to play along, even though I knew the smell was me!

— Piper, KY

Dog drama

We take our dog, Link, to the pet store to get groomed. Usually, my mom is the one who holds his leash as we walk to the back of the store, but she let me do it last time. We were almost at the grooming area when Link spotted another dog. He started to go nuts, pulling me in the direction of the dog. I let go of the leash, and Link plowed through a display of pet toys to get to the dog. Everyone in the store was looking at me as we ran after him to calm him down! — **Logan, WA**

Sometimes our furry friends cause crazy catastrophes!

TS!

Frog fake-out

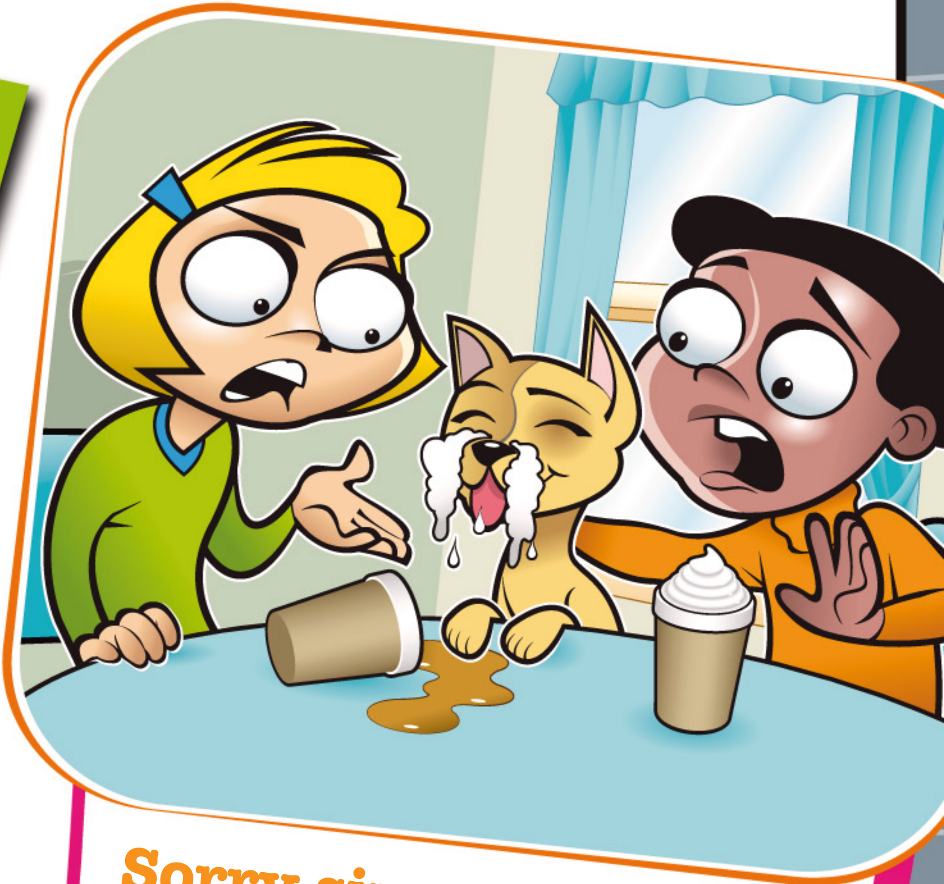
My friend's brother played the meanest prank on us while we were hanging out by the lake in our backyard! He said he caught a frog and was holding it in his hands to show us. He inched closer and closer to us until our backs were to the lake. Then, he opened his hands, screamed, and the frog jumped right towards us! We were both so scared that we jumped backwards, falling right into the lake. We were covered in gross leaves and dirt after that!

— Dave, IA

Treat trouble

Every year, we have a big celebration for my dog's birthday. This year, after my family sang to Fluffy, I picked up a cute, dog-shaped cookie. My older sister is always baking stuff like that, so I figured she'd made them. My first bite tasted a little funky though. I was going for my second bite when my family suddenly started laughing. It turns out my sister had made the cookies ... but they were a special dog treat recipe for Fluffy! Eww! I was so grossed out.

— Jasmine, NJ



Sorry sipper

My friend Abigail came over my house with two Starbucks drinks with extra whipped cream! Usually, when my parents go to Starbucks, they'll get our dog, Rylie, a Puppuccino as a treat, so I could tell he had his eyes on the two cups. I shooed him away so that we could talk as we drank our drinks, but he was determined! Out of nowhere, he jumped up on the table and went snout-first, right into Abigail's drink! His face was covered in whipped cream and Abigail's drink spilled all over the table. I could tell she was upset and grossed out by Rylie's bad behavior and I felt so bad for ruining the thoughtful treat she'd brought for us! **— Sofie, UT**

KEY

Totally embarrassing!

Don't show your face for a while!

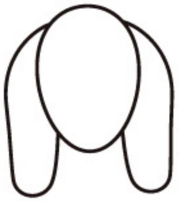
Yikes! You'll never live that down!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK COLLINS

All Ears!

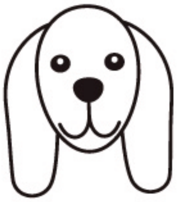
These animals have one thing in common: their large ears! We're teaching you how to draw them.

Basset hound



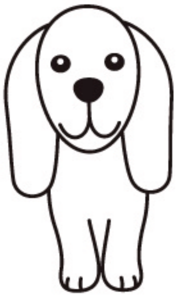
1

Draw an upside-down, egg-shaped head with long, rounded ears.



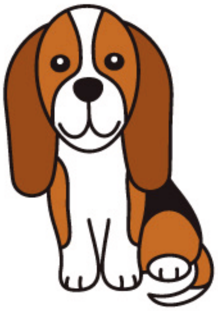
2

Add two black circular eyes with white pupils inside. Create an oval nose with a long, w-shaped mouth.



3

Sketch two front legs, then connect them to the dog's ears. Draw two small lines on each paw.

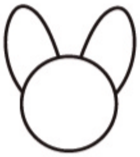


4

Add a rounded back leg and paw, the sketch a crescent-shaped tail. Color everything!

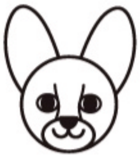
Your drawing here!

Serval



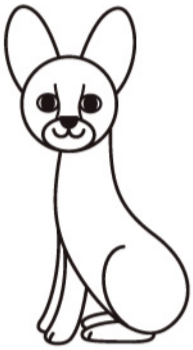
1

Start drawing a circular head. Above the head, add two long ears with rounded tops.



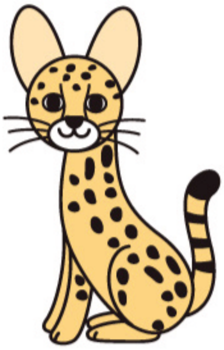
2

Create oval eyes with black circles inside, a half-circle nose and a w-shaped mouth. Add an outline around the mouth and nose that goes up above the eyes.



3

Draw a long neck that flows into a rounded body. Add two vertical, rounded front legs. Sketch a curved line back leg with two horizontal paws underneath.



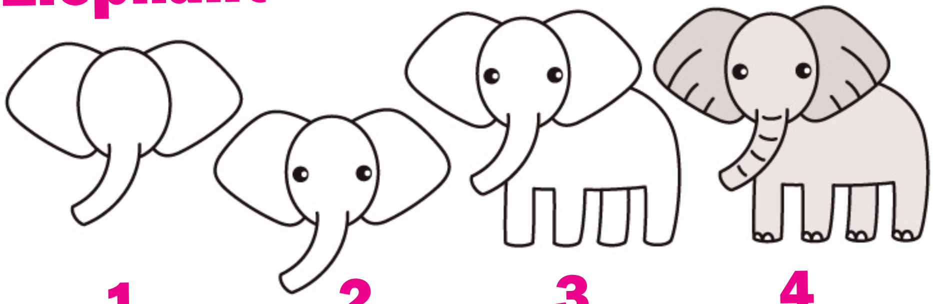
4

Add curved line whiskers and a slightly curved tail. Draw the serval's spots and the stripes on the tail. Color!

Your drawing here!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NAOKO MATSUNAGA

Elephant



1

Begin with an oval face that connects to a curved trunk. Add two horizontal, half-diamond ears with rounded points.

2

Create two circular, black eyes with small white pupils inside them.

3

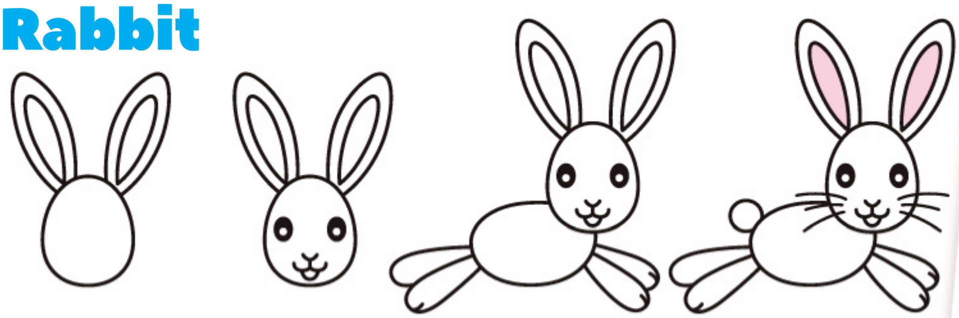
Draw a half-circle body with four rectangular legs.

4

Add line details on the ears and trunk, then sketch toes on each foot. Color in!

Your drawing here!

Rabbit



1

Draw an egg-shaped face and two long, petal-shaped ears. Outline the ears.

2

Create two dark oval eyes with white pupils. Add a curved line nose, w-shaped mouth and half-oval tongue.

3

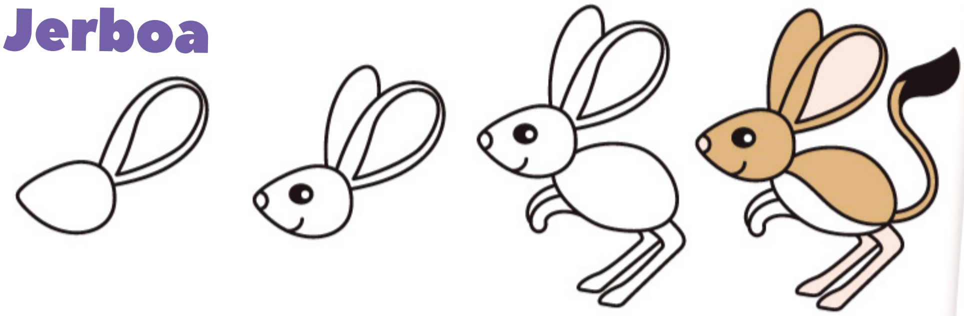
Add a jellybean-shaped body with four long, rounded legs. Sketch a line on each paw.

4

Draw curved lines for whiskers and a circular tail. Color the rabbit!

Your drawing here!

Jerboa



1

Draw a small head that's rounded on the right and pointed on the left. Add a long, rounded ear with a teardrop-shaped outline.

2

Create a rounded left ear. Draw a dark circle for the eye with a white pupil inside it, then add curved lines for the nose and mouth.

3

Sketch an egg-shaped body with two curved arms in front. Add two back legs that slant right and then left.

4

Add a thin, curvy tail that gets thicker at the end. Color your creation!

Your drawing here!

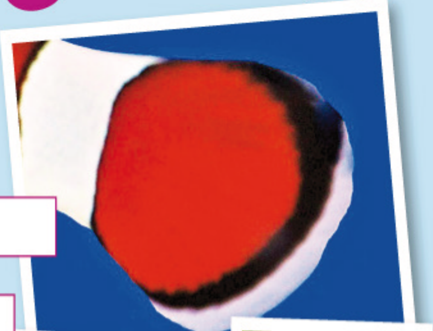
UP-ROAR-IOUS FUN

Animal Tales makes games just for critter lovers like you!

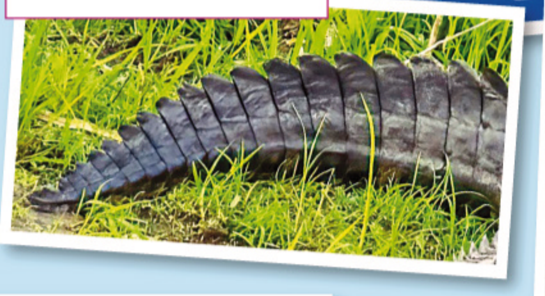
See answers on page 85.

Telling Tails!

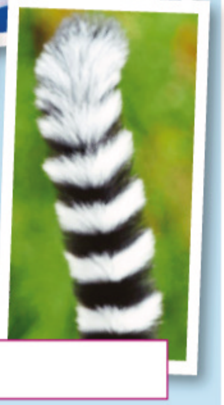
Do you know which animal each tail belongs to?



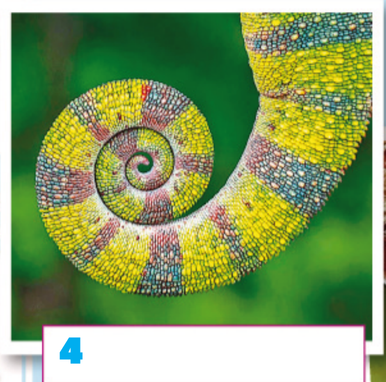
1



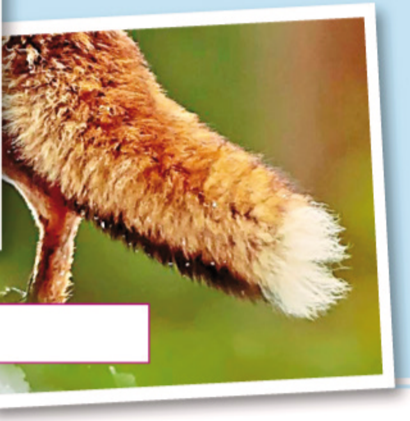
2



3



4



5

TONGUE TWISTERS

Can you say these animal phrases four times fast?

1. A slimy snake slithered down the sandy Sahara.

2. Lucky lions lounge lazily.

3. Kindly kittens knitting mittens keep kazooing in the king's kitchen.

4. A BIG BLACK BUG BLEW BIG BLUE BUBBLES.

5. A NOISY NOISE ANNOYS AN OYSTER.

ANiMAL SUDOKU

Use the grid to play this numbers game with letters instead!

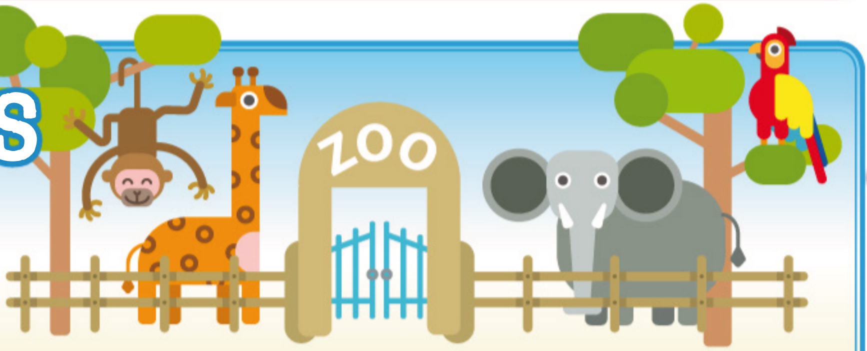
Directions: Each row (across), column (up and down) and 2x3 box must include all the letters in

MONKEY.

		E			N
O		M	Y	E	
M	Y		N		E
		K			O
	O		K	N	
K	M				Y

SiLLY SUBS

Fill in the blanks before reading the story, then when you're done, read about your crazy adventure!



My Trip to the Zoo!

Every year, my friends and I take a trip to The __________ (pattern) Zoo. I always make sure to visit the __________ (creature) exhibit first — it's my favorite stop! The animals are __________ (adjective), and it's really funny when they __________ (verb) at me! The aquarium is also really fun. There's a pool of __________ (plural animal) where you can dip your hands in and __________ (verb) them. They're usually a bit __________ (adjective), so you have to make sure you wash your __________ (body part) after that. One really cool thing my friends and I do at the end of the trip is take a ride on the __________ (fruit) that goes through the safari. The tour guide lets us get off and feed __________ (food) to the __________ (plural animal). The animals seem to like it, because they're always __________ (-ing verb) our hands for more. It's so much fun that I can't wait until our next visit!

ARUNEE RODLOY/SHUTTERSTOCK; JIM SCHWABEL/SHUTTERSTOCK; YAKUB88/SHUTTERSTOCK; JAN BURES/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHAL NINGER/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; KRIVOKOT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Two Truths and a Lie

Which statement about each animal isn't true?

Penguins

1. Penguins are birds.
2. Some species of penguins can fly.
3. Penguins live in Antarctica.

Tigers

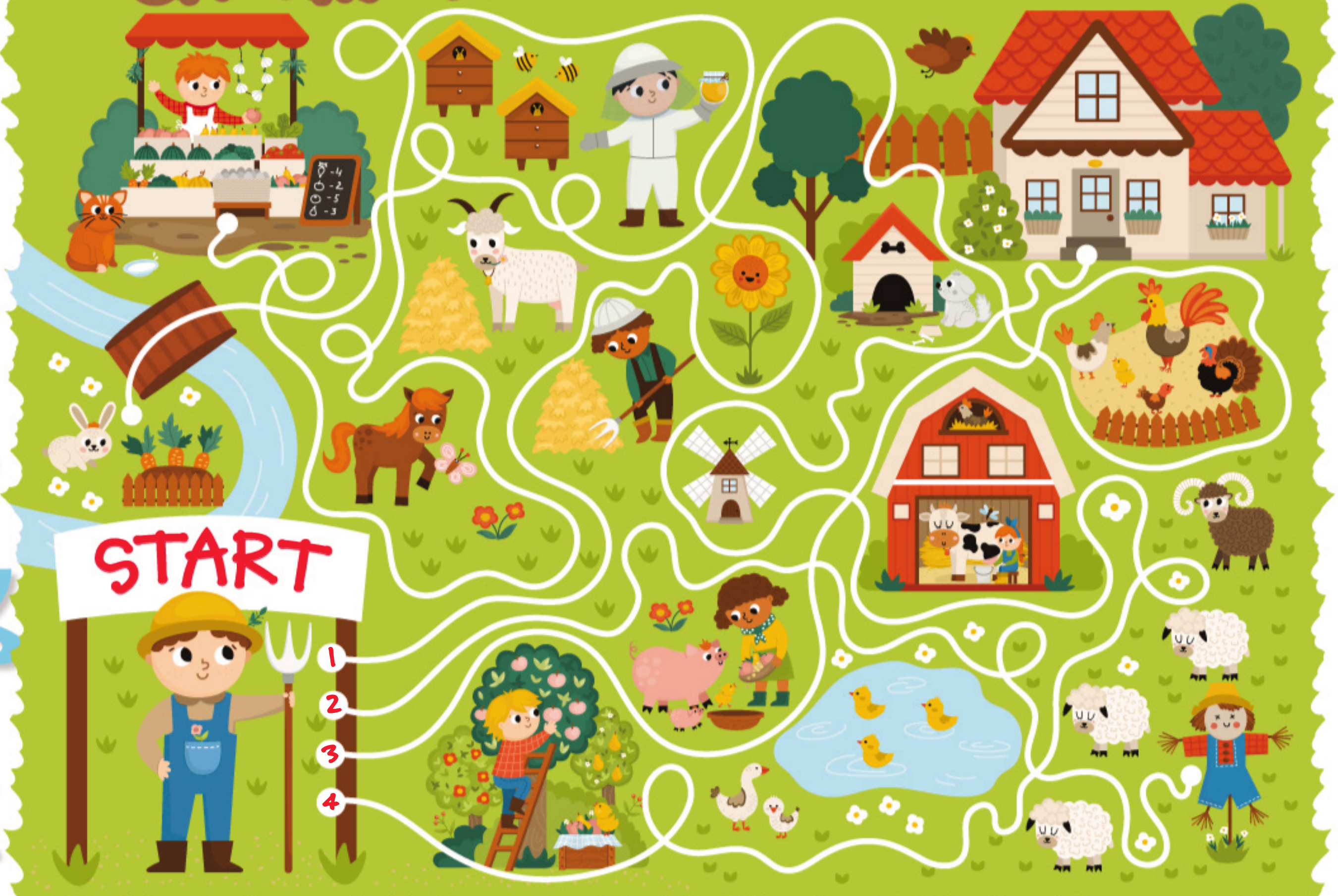
1. Tigers live in tropical forests.
2. Tigers are nocturnal.
3. Tigers are the smallest of the big cat species.

Squirrels

1. Most squirrels are silent and don't squeak.
2. Squirrels are mammals.
3. Squirrels don't hibernate.

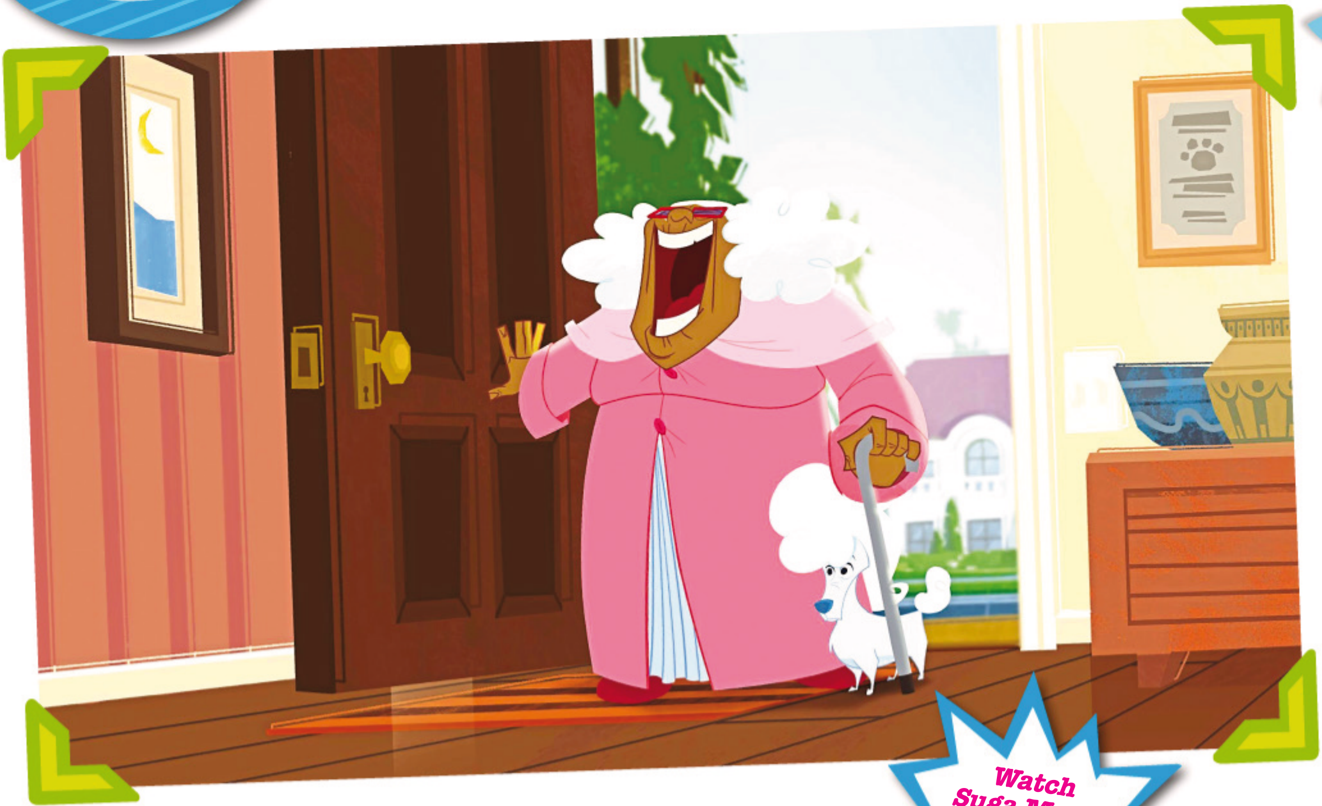
ON THE FARM

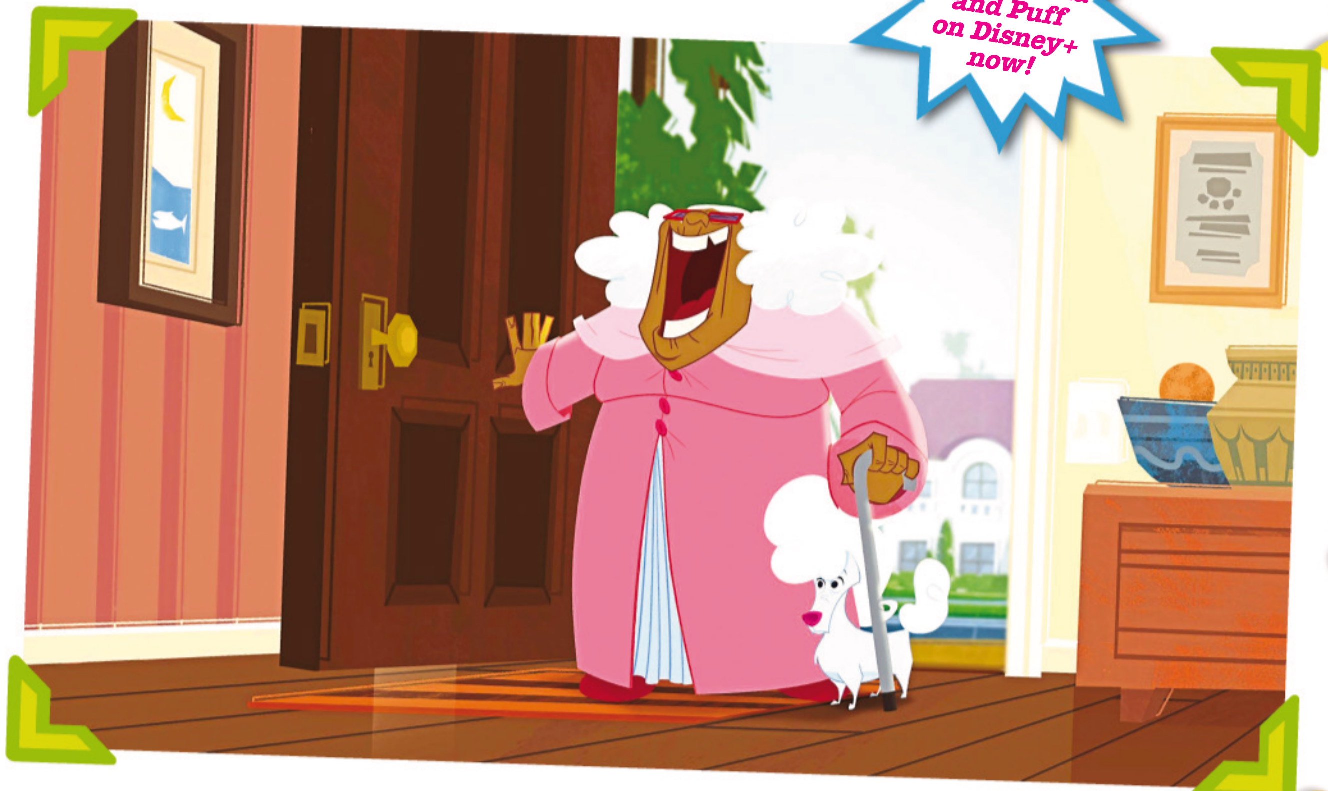
Which path should the farmer take to get to his farmhouse?



SPOT the differences!

Can you find and circle the 10 things that have changed in the second picture from *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder*?



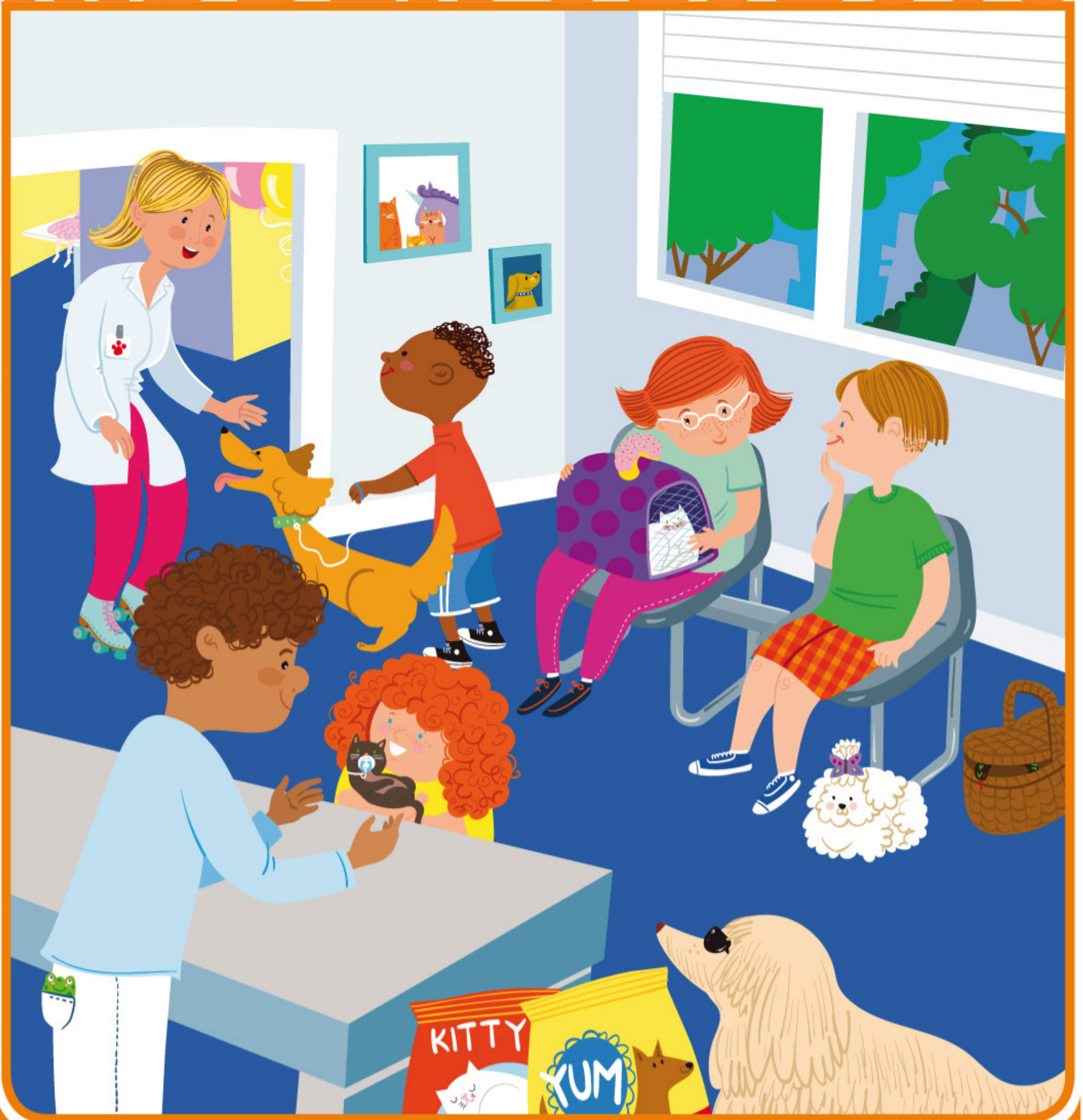


Watch Suga Mama and Puff on Disney+ now!

JDROSS75/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHELLE SOLE/SHUTTERSTOCK; MENNO SCHAEFER/SHUTTERSTOCK; LEXI CLAUS/SHUTTERSTOCK; DISNEY (2)

UP-ROAR-IOUS FUN

FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



LOOK CLOSELY AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THE FOLLOWING:
frog, roller skates, balloons, unicorn, donut, dinosaur, butterfly, snake, pacifier, sunglasses

ILLUSTRATION BY NATHALIE BEAUVOIS. RANDY RIMLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK

HILARIOUS JOKES

You make me roar with laughter!

What's a cat's favorite movie?
The Sound of Mew-sic!

Why do fish live in salt water?
Because pepper makes them sneeze!

What kind of fish comes out at night?
A starfish!

What's the loudest pet you can own?
A trum-pet!

What kind of dinosaur sleeps all day?
A dino-snore!

What did the horse say after it tripped?
I've fallen and I can't giddy-up!

Knock-knock time

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
BAB!
Bab who?
BABOON WANTS A BANANA!

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
AARDVARK!
Aardvark who?
AARDVARK ONE THOUSAND MILES FOR YOU!

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
GUINEA!
Guinea who?
GUINEA ME A HIGH-FIVE!

ANSWERS

TELLING TAILS

1. Clownfish
2. Alligator
3. Lemur
4. Chameleon
5. Fox

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

Tigers' Lie: 3, Tigers are the largest cat species.

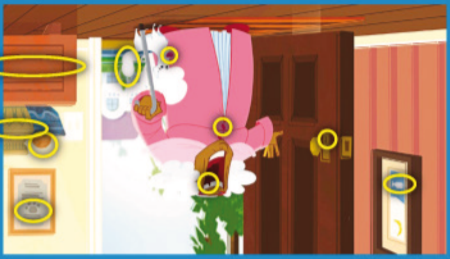
Penguins' Lie: 2, No species of penguins can fly.

Squirrels Lie: 1, Squirrels are noisy animals that make a variety of sounds.

ANIMAL SUDOKU

Y	K	E	O	M	N
O	N	M	Y	E	K
M	Y	O	N	K	E
N	E	K	M	Y	O
E	O	Y	K	N	M
K	M	N	E	O	Y

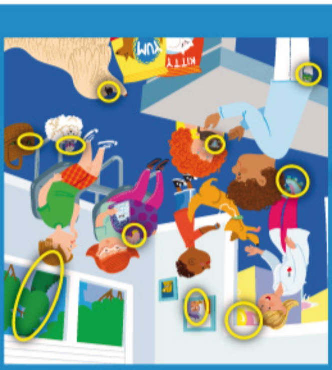
SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



ON THE FARM

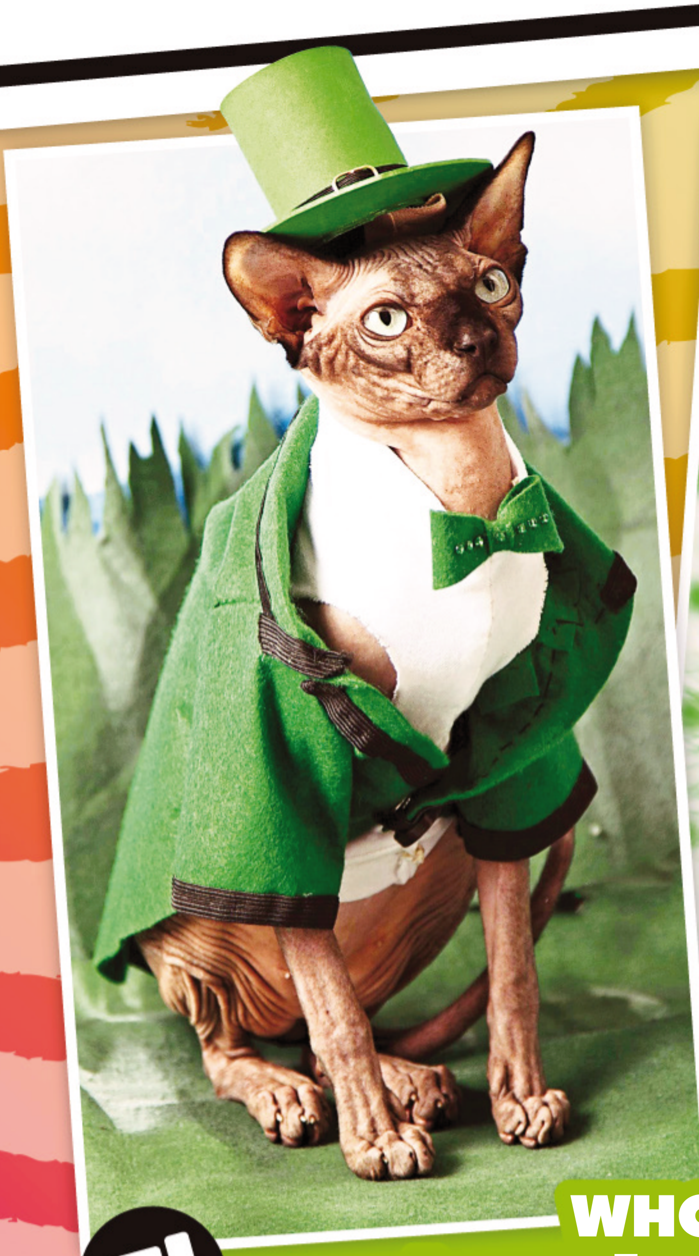
Path 4

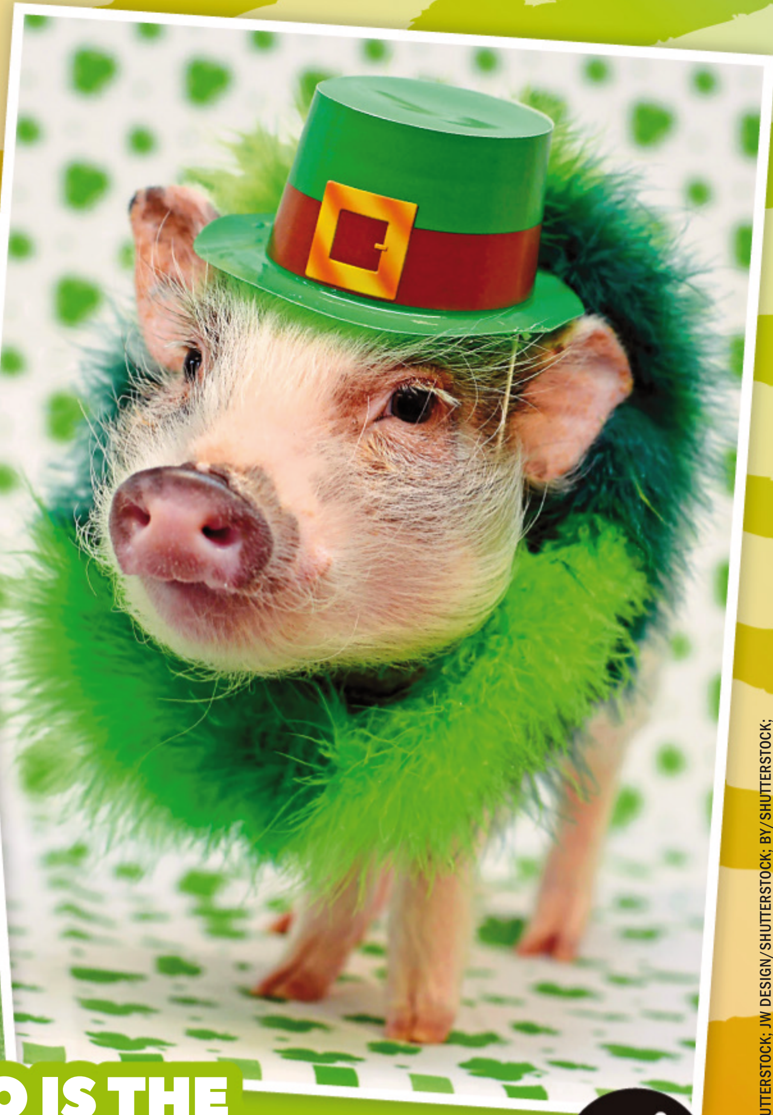
FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



Animal FACE-OFF

The competition was fierce, but somebody had to win!





WHO IS THE cutest leprechaun?

While the cat looks like he's taking his leprechaun duties very seriously, we have to give this one to the mini pig. Just look at that fabulous green boa — it's an instant upgrade to the adorable costume!

TERCER OJO PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; JW DESIGN/SHUTTERSTOCK; BY/SHUTTERSTOCK;
JAVIER BROSCH/SHUTTERSTOCK; OTSPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; KHALIL AHMED/SHUTTERSTOCK

WHO IS flying first class?

Sure, having your own suitcase and plane ticket is great, but you know what's even better? Being the pilot of the plane! That's why the dog rocking a very dapper pilot uniform is our winner.

WHO IS ENJOYING the April showers?

We must admit, that's one genius frog for finding its own umbrella in nature. Even so, the puppy takes the cake for looking way too cute in the world's tiniest raincoat.

WHICH IS THE BEST RIDE AT Walt Disney World?

Dumbo the Flying Elephant and Slinky Dog Dash are both a blast to ride, but Slinky Dog wins because you feel like you're a toy racing through Andy's backyard while you're on it!

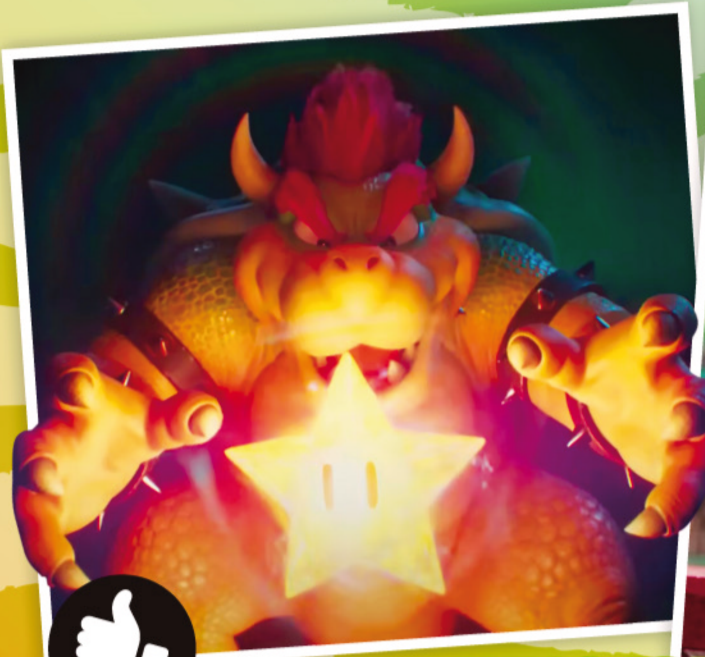
WHO HAS THE MOST topsy-turvy view?

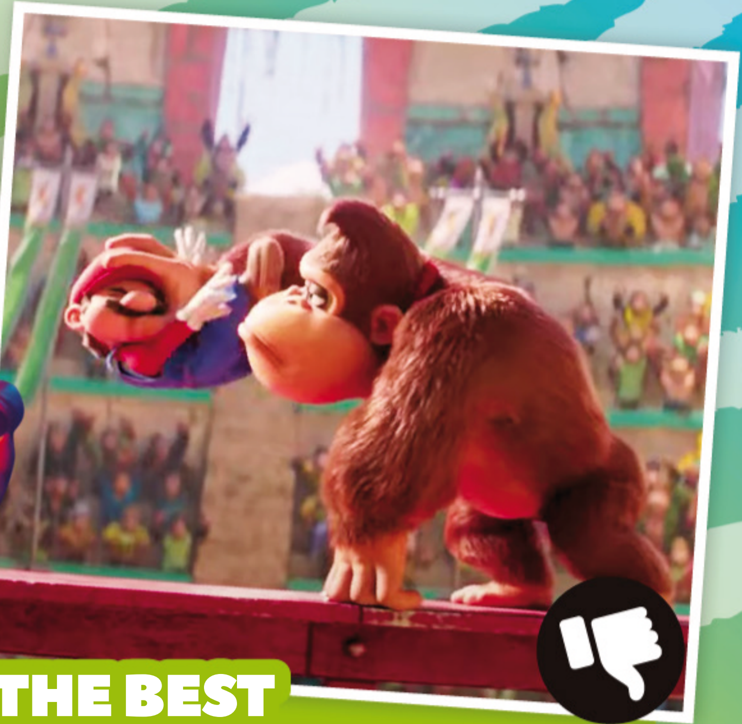
Owls have a special ability of rotating their heads so that they can look in all different directions, but sloths spend nearly all of their time upside-down, which is why they have the ultimate topsy-turvy view!

JOHN RAOUX/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; MICHEL EULER/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK; PHOTOCHUR/SHUTTERSTOCK; NODRAMA_LLAMA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANMENSHIKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; FOKKE BAARSSEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; UNIVERSAL (2)

WHO'S HAVING A JOLLY good time in London?

That seagull has the perfect view of Big Ben — one of the most famous landmarks in London. But since the dog's getting in on the action as a guard at Buckingham Palace, he wins!





WHO IS THE BEST Super Mario Bros. character?

Donkey Kong and Bowser are two villains who are worthy opponents for Mario and Peach, but Bowser comes out on top! Why? He's the ultimate bad guy and it's so fun to watch him try to achieve his wild, evil mission!

Critter Q&A

Wondering about the wild and wonderful animal kingdom? You've come to the right place!

After my dog goes to the bathroom, she runs around and barks. Why is that? — LILY, 8, UT

There are two possible explanations for why your dog does this. This behavior could be a sign of excitement. Going to the bathroom feels good for your pup, and running around and barking is a way to express her happiness. The other reason is to mark her territory. Dogs have scent glands on their paws, so running adds their scent around the spot where they went to the bathroom.

How do whales sleep? — JAMES, 10, FL

When humans fall asleep, our bodies know to keep breathing without our brains thinking about it. Whales, on the other hand, have to think to breathe, which makes the way they sleep different. Different species of whales sleep differently. Some rest vertically in the water, while others rest horizontally. Some float near the surface of the water for short periods of time. Many rest alongside a pod of other whales. Experts also believe whales rest with half of their brain awake and one eye open so t they can keep breathing and spot any predators in their area.

Why do cows moo?

— JESS, 6, VA

Mooing is a cow's way of communicating! Like humans, cows moo for all different things — when they're hungry, when they're looking for a friend, when they're calling out for their parents, when they're upset and more. What's interesting is that each cow has a unique voice and they will make different mooing sounds to communicate different things.

ANTON WATMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; LOOK STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; MAXICAM/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROGER ARPS BPE1 CPAGB/ SHUTTERSTOCK; VALENTYN VOLKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK; RAMARVEL/SHUTTERSTOCK; KLUCIAR IVAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

How do penguins stay warm?

— ROSIE, 8, NM

Animals that live in cold climates are usually born to survive in those temperatures, and penguins are no different! They have feathers that are thick and waterproof. The have a layer of blubber that keeps them warm while they swim. Many species also huddle together to keep each other warm on land!

How do oysters make pearls?

— KEEGAN, 10, GA

Pearls start when a small particle in the ocean enters into an oyster, between its hard shell and soft tissue. Once inside, that small particle begins to bother the oyster, similar to the way your eye itches when something gets inside. To get rid of it, the oyster makes a sac around the particle. That sac grows layers and layers until it forms a pearl!

Do cats really have nine lives?

— ALEXIA, 11, DE

Nope! Cats having nine lives is a myth that goes back centuries, yet no one knows where or why people started spreading it around. What we do know is that cats have kept the reputation thanks to their amazing ability to jump or fall from high locations and land without a scratch. They have a special reflex that allows them to right their bodies midair, landing perfectly on four feet.

Why do bugs have antennae?

— CLAIRE, 7, SC

Antennae are one of the most important parts of an insect's body! They're so important that almost all insects have them. Insects use their antennae to figure out what's around them because the antennae can smell, taste and feel around. This helps them find food, keep away from danger and find mates.

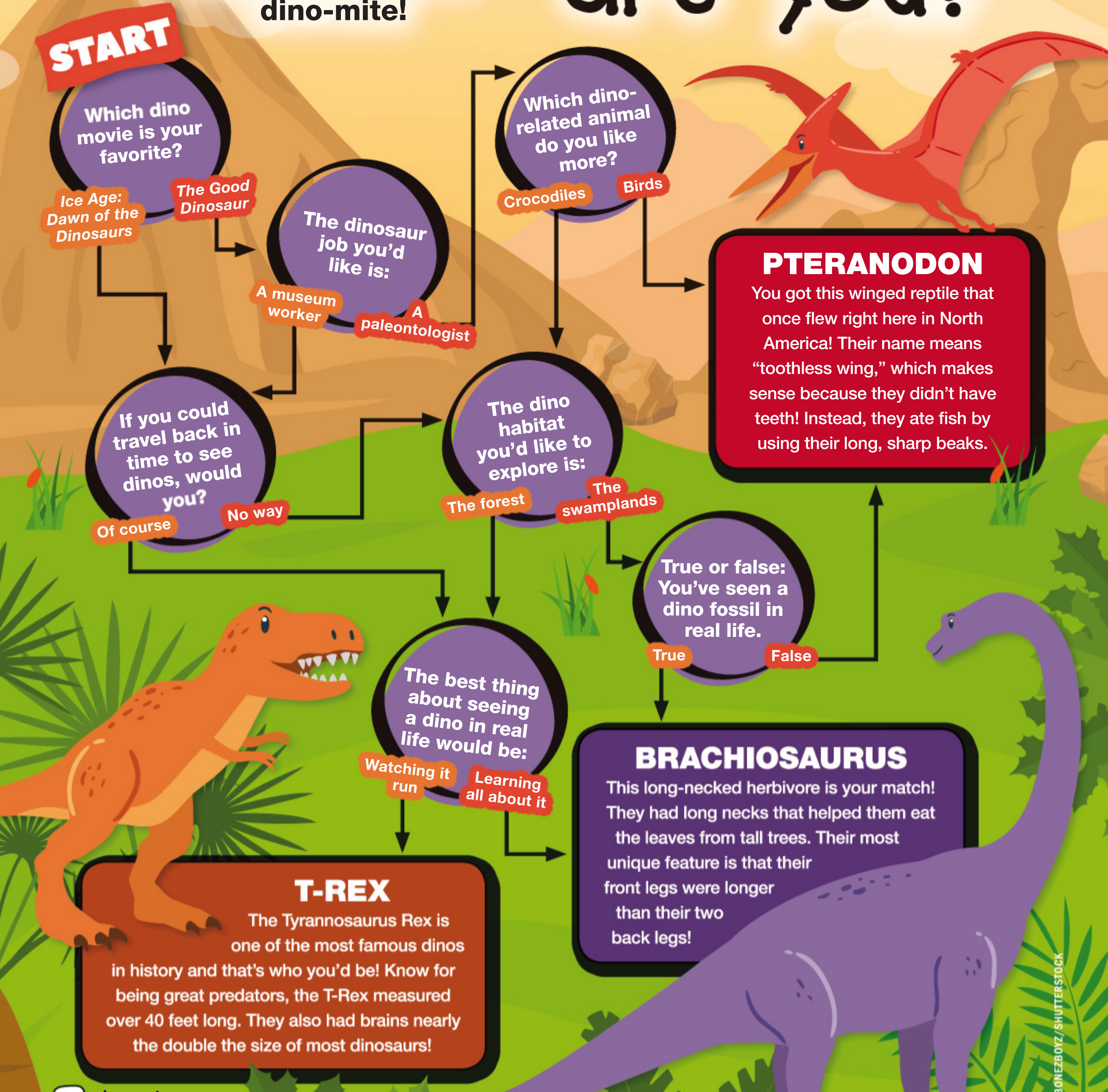
SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS!

Do you have a question about an animal? We'd love to answer it for you! Email your question to mail@animaltalesmag.com with "Critter Q&A" in the subject line.

Quiz

Which DINOSAUR are you?

Find out why you're dino-mite!



START

Which dino movie is your favorite?
- Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs
- The Good Dinosaur

The dinosaur job you'd like is:
- A museum worker
- A paleontologist

Which dino-related animal do you like more?
- Crocodiles
- Birds

If you could travel back in time to see dinos, would you?
- Of course
- No way

The dino habitat you'd like to explore is:
- The forest
- The swamplands

True or false: You've seen a dino fossil in real life.
- True
- False

The best thing about seeing a dino in real life would be:
- Watching it run
- Learning all about it

PTERANODON

You got this winged reptile that once flew right here in North America! Their name means "toothless wing," which makes sense because they didn't have teeth! Instead, they ate fish by using their long, sharp beaks.

BRACHIOSAURUS

This long-necked herbivore is your match! They had long necks that helped them eat the leaves from tall trees. Their most unique feature is that their front legs were longer than their two back legs!

T-REX

The Tyrannosaurus Rex is one of the most famous dinos in history and that's who you'd be! Know for being great predators, the T-Rex measured over 40 feet long. They also had brains nearly the double the size of most dinosaurs!

BONEZBOYZ/SHUTTERSTOCK

ON SALE NOW!

Check out this cool mag!

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Sofia Wylie
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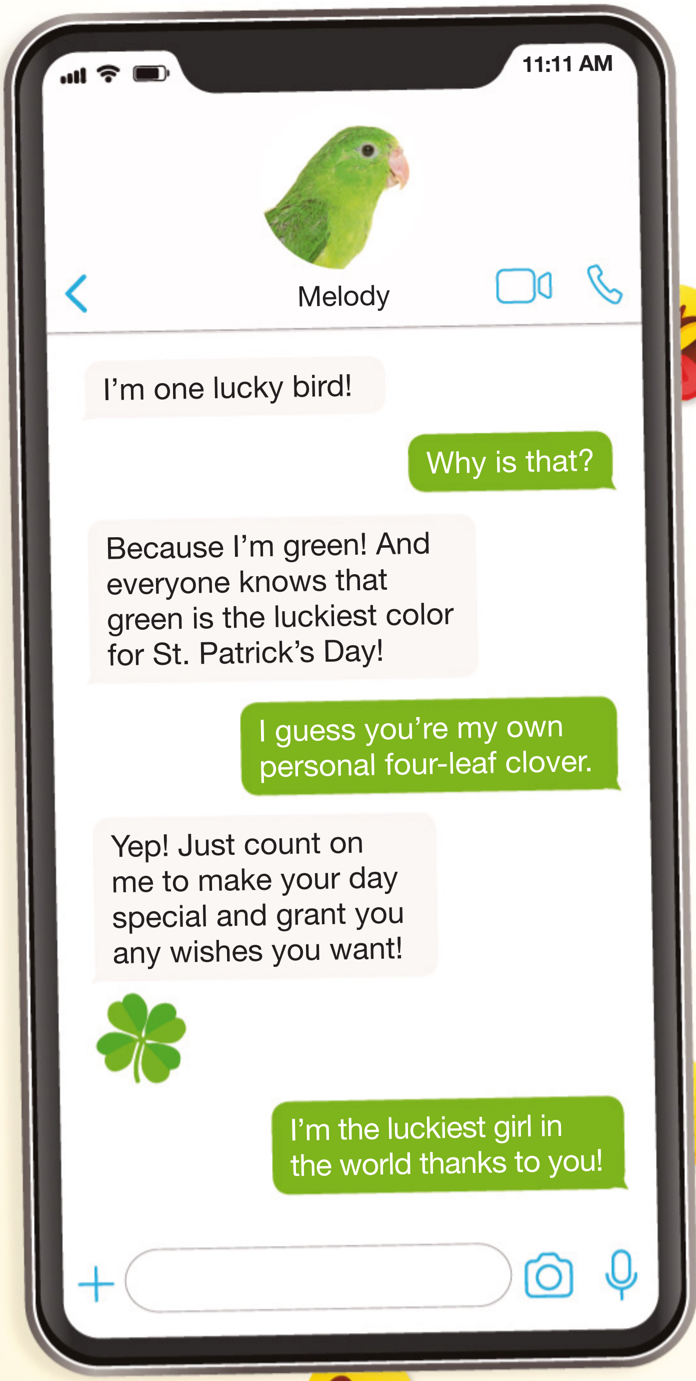
IF PETS CO

LOL at what would happen if your furry friend could use a phone!



I'm one lucky bird!

Why is that?

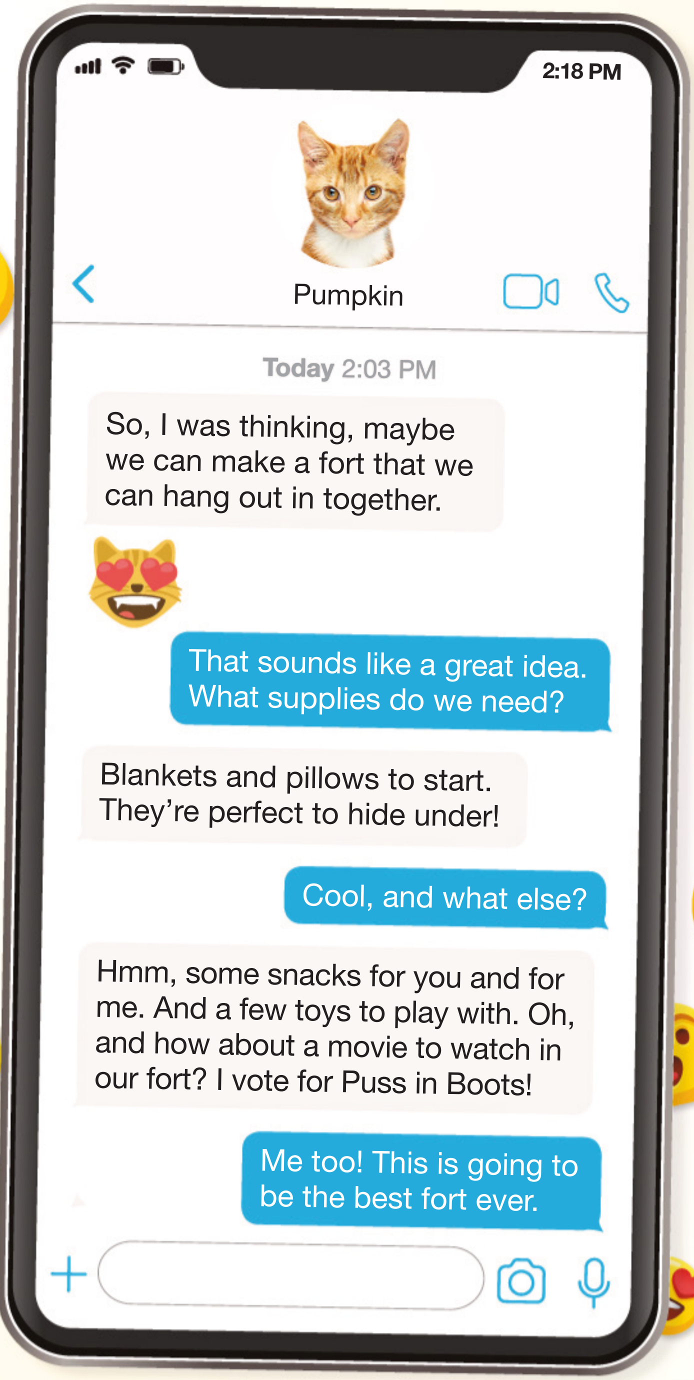
Because I'm green! And everyone knows that green is the luckiest color for St. Patrick's Day!

I guess you're my own personal four-leaf clover.

Yep! Just count on me to make your day special and grant you any wishes you want!

🍀

I'm the luckiest girl in the world thanks to you!



So, I was thinking, maybe we can make a fort that we can hang out in together.

😻

That sounds like a great idea. What supplies do we need?

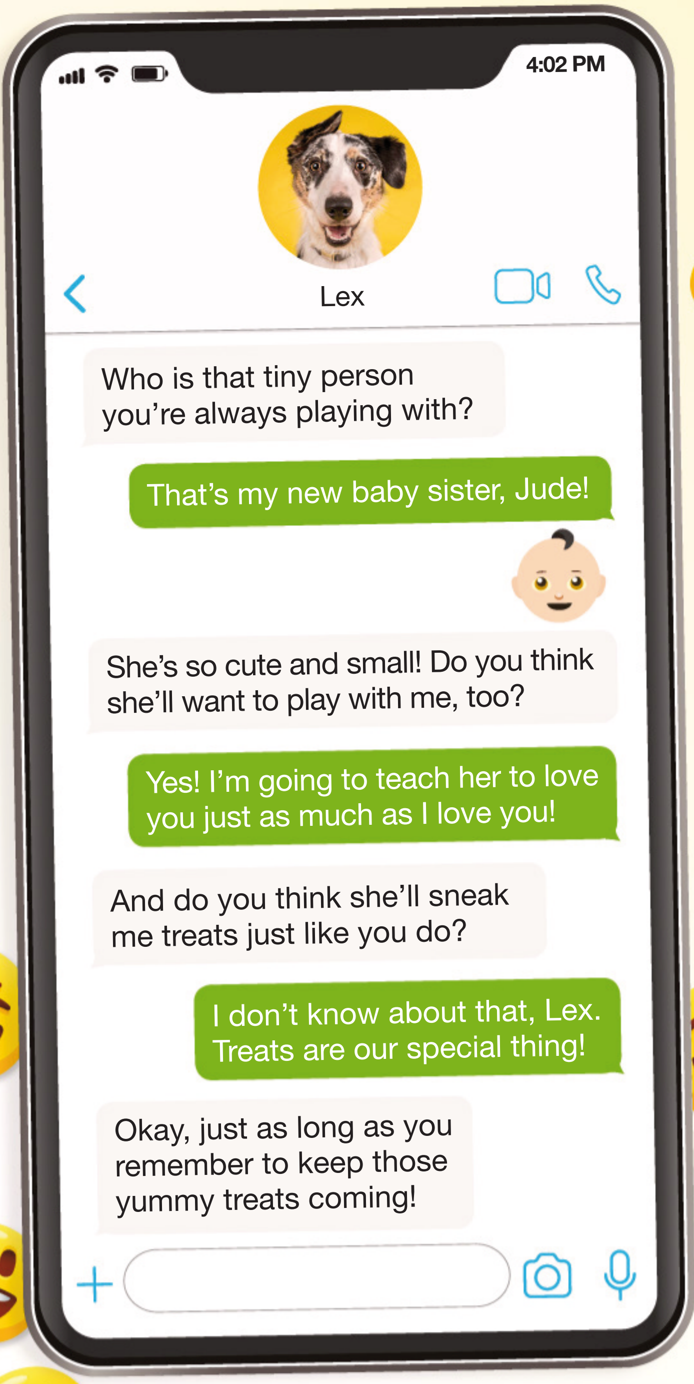
Blankets and pillows to start. They're perfect to hide under!

Cool, and what else?

Hmm, some snacks for you and for me. And a few toys to play with. Oh, and how about a movie to watch in our fort? I vote for Puss in Boots!

Me too! This is going to be the best fort ever.

ULD TEXT!



4:02 PM

Lex

Who is that tiny person you're always playing with?

That's my new baby sister, Jude!

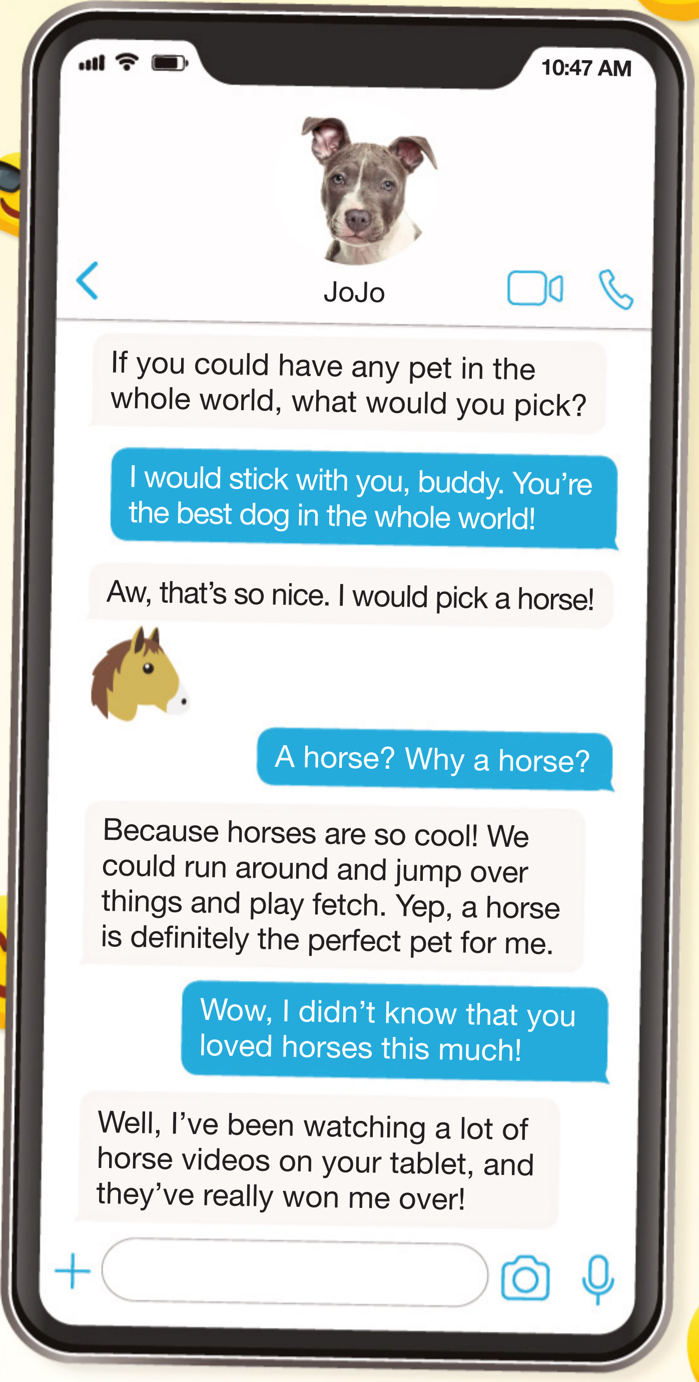
She's so cute and small! Do you think she'll want to play with me, too?

Yes! I'm going to teach her to love you just as much as I love you!

And do you think she'll sneak me treats just like you do?

I don't know about that, Lex. Treats are our special thing!

Okay, just as long as you remember to keep those yummy treats coming!



10:47 AM

JoJo

If you could have any pet in the whole world, what would you pick?

I would stick with you, buddy. You're the best dog in the whole world!

Aw, that's so nice. I would pick a horse!

A horse? Why a horse?

Because horses are so cool! We could run around and jump over things and play fetch. Yep, a horse is definitely the perfect pet for me.

Wow, I didn't know that you loved horses this much!

Well, I've been watching a lot of horse videos on your tablet, and they've really won me over!

CYNOCLUB/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHRIS MIREK FREEMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; JESSICA MCGOVERN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; SEBASTIAN IGNACIO COLL/SHUTTERSTOCK; JOSEP PERIANES/SHUTTERSTOCK; VALENTINA VECTORS/SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

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SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet or a wild animal, and it could end up on this page! You can email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com, tag us on Instagram @animaltalesmag or send it to *Animal Tales*, Your Pics, 270 Sylvan Avenue Suite 2220 Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

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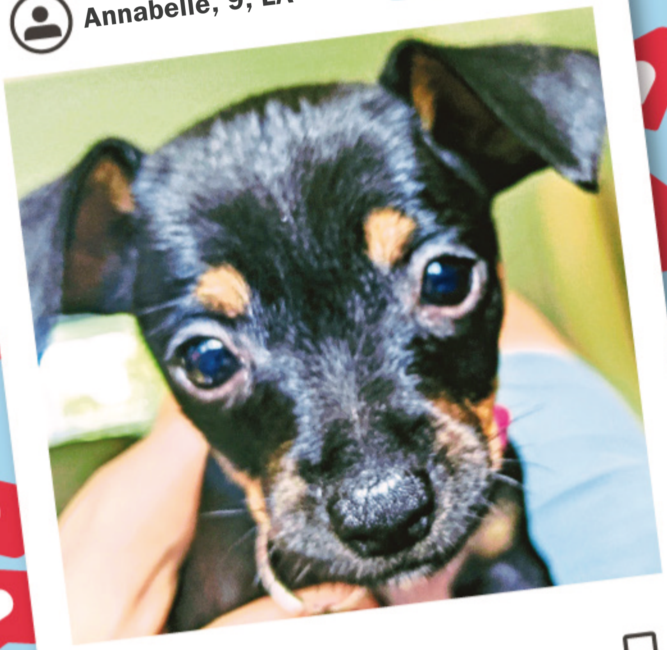
Tim and Donut #bestbuddies #kittycats

Annabelle, 9, LA FOLLOW •••



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Penny #caninecutie #puppydogeyes

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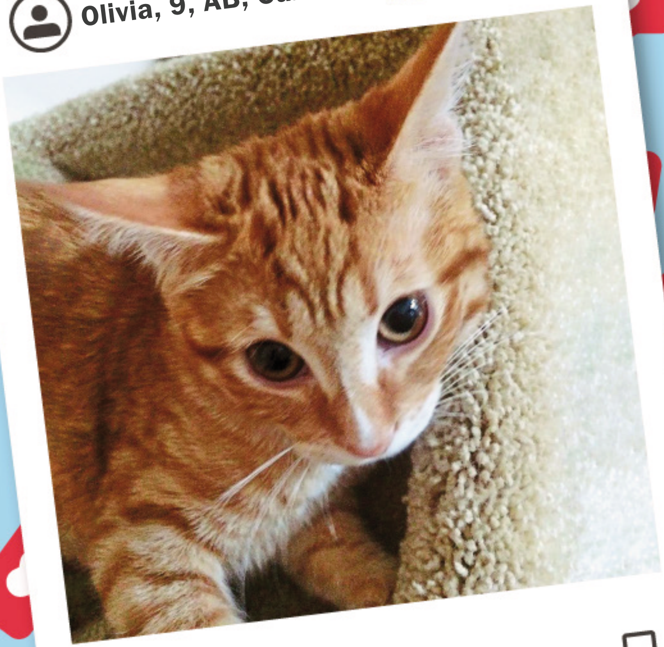

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Roxy **#teaparty #treatsplease**

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